Tonight's Jackpot
$3,500,000 estimated
LOTTO 649

CUBA: LAID BACK, CLASSIC, COOL
SIGHTS AND SOUNDS DOWN HAVANA WAY {page 36}

ARM CANDY?
CAMERON, A-ROD MAY NOT BE LONG-HAUL MATERIAL DISH {page 29}

TORONTO metro®
Wednesday, December 1, 2010
www.metronews.ca
News worth sharing.

Leafs. Three in a row

▶ Martin St. Louis of the Tampa Bay Lightning gets under the Leafs' Kris Versteeg during the first period of last night's game.

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Lightning strike late to beat Leafs

Nikolai Kulemin had a pair of goals in a losing effort as the Leafs blew a 3-2 lead with nine seconds to go in the third period, eventually losing 4-3 in overtime. Nazem Kadri went pointless despite centring Phil Kessel on the top line. Go to page 42 for the full story.

Light rail's reckoning

▶ TTC spokesman denies knowing agenda of today's meeting between head of TTC and mayor-elect's team ▶ One councillor says Ford's team will likely push to halt Transit City light-rail project ▶ Premier says there's no money for new subway beyond $3.1B already committed

TTC chief general manager Gary Webster will meet with mayor-elect Rob Ford's team today.

Transit officials would not confirm that the meeting is about the cancellation of the Transit City light-rail lines, though some downtown councillors fear that's the only item on the agenda.

Ford wants a subway on Sheppard Avenue, where the first Transit City light-rail line is already underway. He has said that light rail aggravates traffic congestion.

The problem is that a subway on Sheppard would likely eat all the Transit City money the province has committed to light rail on Eglinton Avenue.

Senior government officials confided that any additional costs from breaking existing contracts would have to come from the existing $3.1 billion in funding that has been committed to Toronto.

In an earlier meeting, Ford's transition team asked TTC staff what it would take to stop work on the light-rail lines being funded by Metrolinx on Eglinton, the Scarborough RT route and Finch.

Because Metrolinx and the federal government are funding the Sheppard line, outgoing transit commissioners have maintained that Ford doesn't have the authority to cancel the work.

Voters enticed by Ford's promise of a subway should remember other cancelled transit projects, said one city councillor, including the Eglinton subway, for which a hole was dug only to be filled by the Mike Harris government. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

All eyes on WikiLeaks

The latest reaction to the document deluge {pages 14, 15, 20}

Vaughan goes blue, PM beams

GTA riding one of two won by Tories in byelections {page 12}

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Weather. Rain

▶ Commuters have their umbrellas up as they wait for a bus yesterday in early morning rain in Toronto.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Winter gives November a rain check

If you're out and about today, expect yesterday's rain to change to a few flurries in the morning and ending in the afternoon. Then it will be cloudy with the wind becoming west 30 km/h in the afternoon. Environment Canada says to expect a high of just 4 C and about 5 mm of rain. The Toronto and Region Conservation Authority issued a high water safety bulletin yesterday due to the rain expected to fall in the region that could increase water levels in rivers and streams, causing fast-flowing water and dangerous conditions. The rain is a result of a large low-pressure system that has picked up moisture from the Gulf of Mexico. A cold front is following the warm, wet front.

Trial without jury

◐ 'Making-faces' murder case proceeds with judge alone ◐ Mendieta's second trial derailed after jurors complained to judge about off-duty Crown attorney's 'distracting' behaviour

A murder trial derailed by a Toronto prosecutor accused of "making strange faces" in court will continue without a jury.

Justice Nola Garton gave her consent to move ahead yesterday with a third trial after the defence and prosecution agreed on how to proceed with only the judge.

Erika Mendieta was rearraigned in court soon after and pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder in the 2003 death of her two-year-old daughter Emmily.

It's effectively a continuation of her second trial because no new evidence will be introduced, her lawyers said outside the courtroom.

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Erika Mendieta

"We find him very distracting and he is making strange faces all the time. We feel very uncomfortable with him."
NOTE FROM JURY TO THE JUDGE

Both sides also agreed that Mendieta's "voir dire" testimony — which jurors did not hear — would also be considered when Garton makes her ruling.

Mendieta told the court her testimony was affected by Crown attorney Paul Alexander, saying he rolled his eyes and scowled at her.

However, Alexander's "distracting" behaviour was noticed first by jurors, prompting Garton to declare a mistrial last week.

The jury, which didn't recognize Alexander, sent a note to Garton asking that a blond man sitting in the front row be removed from the court. It even included a diagram that identified where he was sitting.

Alexander had helped prosecute Mendieta during her first trial, which ended in a hung jury, but wasn't involved in her retrial.

Alexander is not on active court duty and has not spoken publicly about what happened. Ontario's chief prosecutor is investigating the matter.

The mistrial, which made headlines, even prompted Ontario Attorney General Chris Bentley to comment that he'd never seen anything like it in his 30 years as a lawyer.

The case is set to resume Dec. 14 with closing arguments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1 news

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WEEKEND DEATH

Warrant issued in hit and run

Police have issued an arrest warrant for a 26-year-old man wanted in connection with a fatal hit-and-run in the Entertainment District.

Naveen Ariaratnam, pictured, is wanted for second-degree murder in the death of Vincent Dang, 20, who died early Saturday morning.

Police say Dang was involved in an altercation inside a nightclub and after leaving the club with some friends, was struck by an SUV that made a U-turn and drove directly at him on Wellington Street, east of Blue Jays Way.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Think about one less paper cup

First Drop Canada, a Toronto-based not-for-profit, will host the fundraising event One Less Paper Cup on Friday from 8 p.m. to midnight.

The event marries coffee and art to raise money for health care in developing countries and support local environmental initiatives.

One Less Paper Cup features art pieces presented at a silent auction at The Mascot, 1267 Queen St. W. Fifteen Canadian artists have converted white ceramic cups into art.

All proceeds from One Less Paper Cup will go to Grounds for Health, an organization that works in the coffee-growing communities of developing countries to provide women with cervical cancer education, screening and treatment.

METRO

SIU to reopen G20 video investigation

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Special Investigations Unit Director Ian Scott

Director asks Toronto Police chief for further relevant information

Ontario's police watchdog has announced that they will reopen their investigation into the injuries sustained by a man named Adam Nobody during the G20.

The news comes one day after Police Chief Bill Blair lashed out at the Special Investigations Unit for saying excessive force was probably used by officers in two cases during G20 protests.

Blair said a YouTube video, consulted by the SIU as evidence in Nobody's complaint, was "tampered with," and edited out of context. The video, shot by web developer John Bridge, shows Nobody being chased by a group of about six uniformed officers. He is then tackled to the ground.

Referencing the video, SIU director Ian Scott concluded there was a "probable excessive use of force," but the officer could not be identified.

Nobody, the man at the centre of criticisms lobbed by the Toronto Police against the SIU spoke with the Toronto Star yesterday.

He recalled one terrifying moment, handcuffed and lying on the ground behind a paddy wagon, when a plainclothes police officer placed his foot on his face.

"He was calling me a piece of sh—t," said Nobody, recounting the moment. "'Get up and fight me,'" he said, adding that there were "tons of police officers around laughing."

Then, the officer asked his name. "'Adam Nobody,' I said, and the guy takes his foot off my face, kicks me in the face and tells me to stop being a smart ass."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Dragging their way to expression

Latin American drag queens find sexual freedom in Canada

With bulky luggage in tow, Juan Antonio Nunez and Herberth Menendez gracefully take a seat at a meeting table and lay out their mirrors, makeup kits, wigs and Size 10 stilettos.

As they apply eye shadow, lipstick and Mac foundation, the two men, both from Mexico, whisper and chuckle in their mother tongue. This tiny space at the Centre for Spanish-Speaking Peoples at Wellesley and Church streets makes them feel at home — a far more welcoming place than the homes they fled in Latin America.

The young men — also from Colombia and Ecuador — are participants in the Mano en Mano program, a four-week course designed to help gay Latinos, mostly immigrants, deal with adjustment issues while exploring the sexual freedom they never before had.

Although offered since 2008, this is the first time the course has opened a course specifically for drag queens in response to a surge of Latino cross-dressers in the population, said program co-ordinator Gerardo Betancourt.

Calling the experience of relief in Canada "the Disneyland effect," Betancourt says some gay Latinos from conservative and Catholic upbringings are eager to explore and express their sexual freedom, and will go to the extreme of dressing up as women.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Juan Antonio Nunez, 28, goes by the stage name Ruby.

East York schools briefly locked down

Two schools in the city's east end were briefly placed in lockdown mode yesterday following reports of an armed man nearby.

East York Collegiate Institute and the East York Alternative School were locked down for about 90 minutes, according to Genna Schnurbach, a spokeswoman for the Toronto District School Board.

"Students and staff are safe," Schnurbach said of both schools. "There is no activity inside the school."

Police initiated the lockdowns on reports of an armed man in the area. After a thorough search, police found no one with a weapon, according to Sgt. Bruce Newman.

"Everyone's safe in the area," Newman said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

City hosting World AIDS Day event

Today is World AIDS Day, and Africa's Children — Africa's Future (AC-AF) will host two global events; one in Toronto and the other in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, to raise awareness on the ongoing crisis of HIV and AIDS.

The Toronto event will be held all day at North York City Centre from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Donations are welcome. AC-AF will be asking Torontonians to answer the following question: "What does HIV and AIDS mean to you?" Answers will be placed on a banner and publicly displayed. METRO

7:30 a.m.

Africa's Children — Africa's Future's event at the North York City Centre kicks off at 7:30 a.m. today and runs until 6:30 p.m.

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News in brief

Buying online made them ill

AJAX. Three teens became ill — one seriously — while experimenting with a chemical compound bought over the Internet.

Police were called to an Ajax residence, where emergency personnel were already on scene.

A 17-year-old youth was placed in intensive care after suffering seizures and vomiting.

Two 18-year-olds were also taken to hospital, but they were not as ill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gun victim was just 18

TORONTO. Police have identified a teen whose body was found at a townhouse complex.

Police say 18-year-old Nicholas Yombo of Toronto was pronounced dead at the scene after officers were waved down by a resident. Officers found a teen with a gunshot wound at the complex on River Street near Dundas Street on Monday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wrong-way driver charged

BURLINGTON. A 61-year-old Mississauga trucker is facing impaired driving charges after police pulled over a tractor trailer going the wrong way on Highway 403. The truck was stopped just west of King Road.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Home raiders tie up woman

SCARBOROUGH. Three men stormed into a Highland Creek home yesterday, tied up a woman and stole money before fleeing.

The woman, in her 50s, untied herself and ran to a nearby house.

Police are searching for three suspects, one of whom may have had a small handgun.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Who stole Hudak's Christmas tree?

Speaker Steve Peters comes clean ◆ He wanted the tallest tree in the legislature ◆ 'I sincerely apologize'

Size matters — at least for politicians and their Christmas trees.

Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak went on a search after a two-metre balsam fir that was outside his office Monday was replaced with one about half that size.

"We had a beautiful tree, but all of a sudden it had mysteriously walked away," Hudak said yesterday. "It was replaced with one that looks a bit more like the Charlie Brown Christmas tree."

Turns out Speaker Steve Peters felt the tree for his office wasn't large enough, so he sent staff out to get a bigger one — which they found outside Hudak's third-floor office.

"It was brought to my attention that that was the tree that belonged to one of the honourable members, and I sincerely apologize for that happening," Peters said.

"The Speaker wanted to have the tallest Christmas tree in the building," admitted Peters, referring to himself in the third person.

By the end of the day, a new, very large tree was installed outside Hudak's office … ending the great tree tale.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ No hard feelings: Hudak, left, has a new large tree after a legislature raid by Steve Peters' staff.

Election won't be a family affair

Premier Dalton McGuinty and Tory leader Tim Hudak have agreed on some ground rules regarding their families in next October's election.

Both have talked about making sure family members are off limits during the campaign, said McGuinty. "We've all got people who are very strong on us and absolutely committed to our causes, and sometimes they can cross a line.

"I think it's incumbent upon all of us to rein them in from time to time, as appropriate."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Insulting Pat Burns' memory

Family's most cherished items stolen just hours after his funeral

Pat Burns had barely been laid to rest when a thief or thieves smashed into his car and stole some of his family's most cherished possessions.

The hockey icon's widow discovered items including signed hockey jerseys from every NHL team and family photos were missing from the ransacked car.

The theft was committed just hours after Burns' Montreal funeral. He died Nov. 19 after a long battle with cancer.

"Whoever it is they must have no conscience."
PAT BURNS' COUSIN ROBIN

Burns' cousin Robin called the crime "deplorable." He urged the thief or thieves to drop off the items at a TV or radio station — and no questions would be asked.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Jason Burns, son of Pat Burns, tapes up the window of the ransacked car.

World AIDS Day. UNICEF upbeat

▶ Students from Tongkuang No. 2 Primary School form the iconic AIDS red ribbon yesterday in Dexing City in China's Jiangxi province.

ZHUO ZHONGWEI/XINHUA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A message of hope

In an upbeat message for World AIDS Day, UNICEF says the transmission of the HIV virus from mothers to babies during childbirth can be virtually eliminated by 2015. UNICEF chief Anthony Lake says the target can be achieved with proper testing and medical care and antiretroviral drugs.

Olson says he'll never seek parole again

Serial killer

- Clifford Olson, 70, has served 25 years of a life sentence for murdering 11 young people in the early 1980s.
- Wearing a white T-shirt and with a shock of untamed hair, Olsen said yesterday he didn't expect parole but was exercising his right to a hearing.

Clifford Olson, one of Canada's most notorious serial killers, says he will never seek parole again after having his request for freedom rejected.

He appeared before the National Parole Board for the second time in four years.

The decision in Quebec came as no surprise.

The last time he tried, in 2006, Olson was swiftly rejected and, again yesterday, the parole board concluded he still represents a threat to society.

"This is the final time," Olson said after hearing the verdict.

"Never again."

And as the child killer left the room, he said, "And I'm out."

The board took only a few minutes to turn down the parole request.

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Opposition to Palin growing? You betcha

Political expert says key Republicans will 'politely express concern' about Palin's presidential hopes

RALPH FRESO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Sarah Palin

Sarah Palin is a veritable Republican superstar, the author of two books and the subject of a reality show that's raking in millions of viewers a week.

And yet since Palin announced last month she's "seriously considering" a run for president in 2012, Republicans now appear willing to risk angering the neo-conservatives and Tea Party members among them who so fervently adore her.

With polls suggesting that, despite her personal popularity, Palin would fare worse against U.S. President Barack Obama in 2012 than any other potential Republican candidate, they're beginning to publicly take on the former Alaska governor.

"They know trying to unseat a sitting president is an uphill battle no matter how impressive the candidate, and they are well aware of how unprepared she is and how unwilling she is to prepare," Cal Jillson, a political science professor at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, said in an interview yesterday.

"The knives are going to come out like we haven't seen before."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa. Movember

▶ MPs and staff pose with a giant mustache on Parliament Hill yesterday.

PAWEL DWULIT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

More than just (hairy) lip service

Over the past month MPs and staff were able to raise more than $30,000 for prostate cancer research. Their itchy efforts were part of the charitable phenomenon "Movember" during which men across the globe tried their hand at some upper lip coverage. Dozens of members of Parliament jumped quickly on the bristly bandwagon, many of them citing NDP leader Jack Layton, who's battling prostate cancer, as their inspiration.

Virk's killer scrubs parole hearing

The woman convicted of killing 14-year-old Reena Virk under a Victoria bridge has waived her right to a parole hearing. Kelly Ellard was scheduled for a hearing in February.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Companies blacklisted by U.S.

The Obama administration yesterday slapped new sanctions on Iran over its suspect nuclear program, targeting 10 companies for funding Iran's development of weapons.

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Hostage taker dies

A student who took hostages at a Wisconsin school died yesterday. Scan code for the story.

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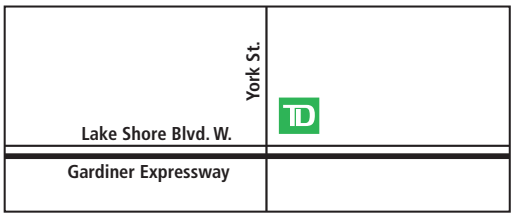

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SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Prime minister Stephen Harper answers a question in the House of Commons yesterday

Byelection wins make Harper happy

PM says Conservative victories show support for his government ◗ Party kept one seat, gained another

A "buoyed" Prime Minister Stephen Harper is calling Monday's federal byelection wins an endorsement of his government's economic and anti-crime agendas.

The Conservatives won two of three byelections, narrowly stealing the Toronto riding of Vaughan from the Liberals and easily retaining the Manitoba riding of Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette.

The Liberals scored an upset over the NDP in Winnipeg North.

"For the past two years our government has focused on Canadians' No. 1 priority – to protect and create jobs and continue to strengthen the economy," Harper said in a release. "Our government is also taking action to tackle crime in order to protect Canadian families."

22

Julian Fantino's win ended a 22-year Liberal reign in Vaughan and could worry seven Toronto Liberal MPs who hung on by fewer than 3,000 votes in the 2008 election.

Harper congratulated former OPP commissioner Julian Fantino, who took Vaughan, and Robert Sopuck, who won Dauphin-Swan River-Marquette with about 57 per cent of the vote.

Voter turnout was dismal, ranging from a low of 26 per cent in Dauphin to a high of 31 per cent in Vaughan.

Ignatieff said Monday's results showed the Green vote to be "negligible" and the NDP on the decline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Firefighters charged with arson

A fire chief in New Brunswick says three of five people charged with a series of arsons in and around Doaktown have been volunteer firefighters in the village.

The RCMP says four men and one woman have been charged with arsons at unoccupied buildings over a one-year period.

Fire Chief Scott Stewart says two of the men were suspended indefinitely in March as a result of the police investigation and a third man was let go in January after three months with the department.

All five are scheduled to appear in Provincial Court in Miramichi on Dec. 13.

Stewart said despite the investigation, the community remains supportive of the fire department. "I believe the morale is still high," he said.

The small community of fewer than 900 people is about 90 kilometres northeast of Fredericton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Surplus for Nfld. and Labrador

Newfoundland and Labrador is now projecting a surplus for this fiscal year of about $12.3 million instead of a deficit.

Finance Minister Tom Marshall credited higher than expected oil production and tax revenues.

It had expected to dip into deficit for a second straight year with a debt-laden budget last March.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Karzai pardoned criminals over connections: U.S.

A secret U.S. diplomatic memo released yesterday by WikiLeaks says Afghan President Hamid Karzai freed dangerous detainees and pardoned suspected drug dealers because they had connections to powerful figures.

The memo, which adds to the multiple allegations of corruption within the Karzai government, said that since 2007 the president and his attorney general authorized the release of 150 detainees, including 29 former prisoners held at the U.S. prison in Guantanamo Bay.

"Both authorize the release of detainees pretrial and allow dangerous individuals to go free or re-enter the battlefield without ever facing an Afghan court," said the document, written on Aug. 6, 2009, by Frank Ricciardone, deputy U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan.

Karzai's spokesman, Waheed Omar, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. He said Monday that the release of documents would not strain U.S.-Afghan relations.

The memo said that in April 2009 Karzai pardoned five Afghan policemen caught with 124 kilograms of heroin because they were related to two heroic figures of the Afghan civil war fought in the mid-1990s. According to the document, Karzai also intervened in the narcotics case of Haji Amanullah, the son of a wealthy businessman and one of the president's supporters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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▶ U.S. President Barack Obama delivers a statement to the media Monday at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building.

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Is a 'big chill' blowing in?

- U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said WikiLeaks acted illegally
- Attorney General Eric Holder said U.S. mounting criminal investigation

After the latest WikiLeaks revelations, the U.S. government is setting in motion a new information "big chill," reversing almost a decade of post-Sept. 11 efforts to nudge U.S. officials into sharing documents.

The Pentagon has detailed new security safeguards, including restraints on small computer flash drives, to make it harder for any one person to copy and reveal so many secrets. The clampdown parallels efforts at other agencies.

For the military it represents a throttling back of initiatives to let other agencies see more of the vast trove of data the Pentagon collects. The new attitude may also make intelligence less widely available to low-level soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

▶ Julien Assange

The tightening of sensitive information comes as U.S. President Barack Obama's administration Monday branded the leak of more than a quarter-million diplomatic memos an attack on the United States and raised the prospect of criminal prosecution against the online clearinghouse WikiLeaks.

In the United States, officials say they already see evidence that the leaks have spawned a chill in the handling and dissemination of sensitive government information.

One official in contact with U.S. military and diplomatic staff in Iraq said the State Department and other agencies are tightening information-sharing and restricting access between the Army and nonmilitary agencies.

Access to much of that diplomatic material had been loosened after the Sept. 11 attacks. The success of the al-Qaida plot was blamed in part on evidence that the U.S. intelligence community had adequate info on the impending attacks but failed to connect the dots because it did not share its intelligence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Espionage Act

- Lawyers from across government agencies are investigating whether it might be possible to prosecute WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange and others under the Espionage Act, a senior defence official said on condition of anonymity yesterday.

WikiLeaks targeted in web attack

The WikiLeaks website said it came under a forceful Internet-based attack yesterday, making it inaccessible for hours to users in Europe and the U.S.

The site appears to have recovered from the attack with the help of Amazon.com Inc.'s U.S.-based server-for-rent service, Amazon Web Services.

The site said in a Twitter message that it was under a "distributed denial of service attack," a method used by hackers to slow down or bring down sites. WikiLeaks didn't identify the attackers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

10 WikiLeaks said the malicious traffic was coming in at 10 gigabits per second, which would make it a relatively large effort. The average denial of service attack over the past year was 349 megabits per second, 28 times slower than the stream WikiLeaks reported.

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An Important Notice Regarding Your Personal Health

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) is working with Ontario's health care providers to build a system in which your health care provider will have improved access to your personal health information including your laboratory test results.

The collection, use and disclosure of your personal health information are subject to the *Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA)* and this notice is being issued to provide you with information to help you to decide whether or not you want to share your information. The ministry is also subject to PHIPA.

For All Ontarians

Currently, laboratories submit your test results back to the health care provider who ordered the test(s) and any other practitioner copied on a requisition form. However, there may be several other health care providers involved in your care, who would not have access to your laboratory test information. The Ontario Laboratory Information System (OLIS) is an electronic system that will allow hospital and community laboratories to share your lab test results with health care providers, and will be a component of the Electronic Health Record.

As of mid-December 2010, the ministry will assume custody and control of patients' laboratory test information that is submitted to and stored in OLIS. MOHLTC will then begin providing your test results to eHealth Ontario, to enable eHealth Ontario to share this information electronically with your health care providers. eHealth Ontario is the public agency that is working to deliver a secure and private electronic health care system for all Ontarians. As an agent of MOHLTC, eHealth Ontario can share this information electronically with any health care provider who delivers your health care in Ontario. MOHLTC will use and disclose your information only as permitted by law, and work to ensure that your information is secure and your privacy is respected.

Protecting Your Privacy

Your privacy is important. As a patient, you can withdraw or reinstate your consent for MOHLTC and/or health care providers who have not ordered your laboratory tests to access your laboratory test information contained in OLIS. If you choose to withdraw your consent, MOHLTC and/or health care providers who have not ordered your laboratory tests will not have access to this information through OLIS. Choosing to withdraw your consent will in no way affect your relationship with your health care provider(s), who will continue to provide care to you.

Deciding Not to Share Your Information

If you wish to withdraw or reinstate consent for MOHLTC or health care providers to access your test results submitted to OLIS, or for more information about this public notice, please call 1-800-291-1406 (TTY: 1-800-268-7095). For more information on OLIS, visit **ontario.ca/yourhealthprivacy.**

For Ontarians Living with Diabetes

There are three key tests that people living with diabetes should receive on a regular basis. They are:

- the HbA1C blood glucose control test, which patients should receive at least every six months;
- the LDL-C cholesterol test, which patients should receive every year, and
- a retinal eye exam, which patients should receive every two years.

The Diabetes Testing Report was created to keep your primary care provider (physician or nurse practitioner) informed of when you last had each of these three tests.

People living with diabetes who are tested regularly are better able to manage their diabetes and avoid complications. The Report will help you and your primary care provider better manage your diabetes care by reminding him or her if you are overdue for an HbA1C test, LDL-C test, or retinal eye exam, and it will encourage you and your primary care provider to talk about your diabetes care.

Protecting Your Privacy

In order to create the Diabetes Testing Report, your primary care provider may share personal health information, including your name, health number and date of birth, with the MOHLTC. He or she will also confirm whether you have diabetes. In response, the MOHLTC will share the most recent dates of each of the three tests with your provider. Your privacy is important, however, and you are not required to have your information included in this report.

Deciding Not to Share Your Information

You may decide that you do not want your primary care provider to disclose your information to the MOHLTC, and that you do not wish to be included in your provider's Diabetes Testing Reports. If you choose to withhold or withdraw your consent, this will in no way affect your relationship with your health care provider and he or she will continue to provide care to you.

If you wish to withhold or withdraw your consent to having your information disclosed by your primary care provider and in any Diabetes Testing Reports that MOHLTC sends to your primary care provider, call 1-800-291-1405 (TTY: 1-800-387-5559). If you withheld or withdrew your consent to have your information included on the Diabetes Testing Report in the Spring of 2010, you do not need to withhold or withdraw your consent again; if you wish to reinstate your consent, you can do so by calling the number above.

For more information about the collection, use and disclosure of your personal health information for the purposes of the Diabetes Testing Report, call the numbers listed above. For more information about diabetes, visit **ontario.ca/diabetes.**

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Ontario

Canadians rack up debt — but slowly: Study

Credit card delinquency rate across Canada down 10 per cent ◐ Fewer Canadians missing payments

Debt levels

- **Quebec** posted the largest increase in debt at 6.6 per cent, while Manitoba had the lowest at 2.6 per cent compared with the national average of 4.3 per cent. However, TransUnion says that is an improvement over the double-digit increases going on since before the recession.
- **Canadian** average credit card debt increased to $3,709 from the previous quarter's $3,614, but fell 1.7 per cent compared with a year ago.
- **Average** auto loan debt increased to $16,183 from the previous quarter's $15,135, and up 9.8 per cent from a year ago.

Canadians continue to rack up more debt but the speed at which they are piling it on is beginning to slow, the TransUnion credit agency reported yesterday.

The average debt for about 24.8 million Canadians tracked by the report, which excludes mortgages, rose to $25,163 — up 4.3 per cent in the third quarter compared with a year ago. The main source of non-mortgage debt for Canadians was vehicles, with credit card purchases a distant second.

TransUnion said Canadians seem to be managing their debts better than they were, with delinquency rates and past-due balances dropping across the country.

The national credit card delinquency rate was down nearly 10 per cent in the third quarter of this year, compared with a year ago when the Canadian economy was just beginning to recover from a major recession.

"There continues to be positive signs in the credit market as Canadians slowly manage out of the recession," said Thomas Higgins, TransUnion's vice-president of analytics.

"The most positive sign has been the significant decrease in past due balances (outstanding debt that is at least 30 days past due), which has dropped 15 per cent since last year after three years of increases."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AGF set to buy Acuity

AGF Management Ltd. has agreed to buy investment management firm Acuity for $325 million in a cash-and-shares deal the company believes will boost its retail and institutional investment management business.

AGF, a Toronto-based firm that operates mutual funds and provides wealth management services, said yesterday that acquiring Acuity will raise its assets under management by 16 per cent to $51 billion from $44 billion.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

7.4

Toronto-based Acuity manages about $7.4 billion for retail, institutional and high net worth investors. Its founder and CEO Ian Ihnatowycz will retire and is expected to join AGF's board.

Books. Barnes & Noble

▶ Shoppers leave a Barnes & Noble store in South Burlington, Vt.

TOBY TALBOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Book seller pins hopes on e-books

Barnes & Noble is hoping its growing e-book business will help offset tough competition from online retailers and discount chains. The largest U.S. traditional book seller's second-quarter loss narrowed, but results missed expectations. However, it said Black Friday was a bright spot with revenue up 17.2 per cent.

Google faces EU scrutiny

European Union regulators will investigate whether Google Inc. has abused its dominant position in the online search market by deliberately lowering links to smaller rivals' sites in its search results.

The European Commission's probe announced yesterday is the first major investigation into Google's business practices anywhere in the world and could potentially result in billions in fines, as in the recent cases of Microsoft Corp. and Intel Corp.

Complaints

The three that lodged complaints are price comparison site Foundem, French legal search engine ejustice.fr and shopping site Ciao, owned by Microsoft through its own search engine Bing.

Several competitors, one owned by Microsoft, say links to their services appear too low on Google's general search results. They also claim that when Google offers similar services, it puts its own links higher on the sponsored search results.

In addition, the commission will look into whether Google prevented advertising partners from placing ads from Google's competitors on their sites.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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GM hits the road again

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Cars race past the GM plant in Oshawa.

Oshawa plant hires 700 workers for Camaro Convertible, Buick Regal

GM Canada has added 700 employees to support a second shift on its flex line at its Oshawa plant.

The automaker says the additional workers are needed to prepare for the 2011 launch of the Chevrolet Camaro Convertible and the all-new Buick Regal. These models will be built alongside the Chevrolet Camaro Coupe.

GM says the Camaro Convertible is slated to begin production in January and the Buick Regal in early spring.

The new shift on the flex line was initially announced in February, and its startup comes just weeks after the addition of a third shift on a different line to support increased production for the Chevrolet Equinox.

"A healthy automotive industry is a critical part of the Canadian economy."
TONY CLEMENT, INDUSTRY MINISTER

General Motors recently issued North America's largest initial public stock offering worth $23 billion US. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
+57.23 (12,952.88)	– 0.76¢ (97.41¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas 1,000 cu ft**
– $1.62 US ($84.11 US)	$4.180 (– 30¢)
	Gold contracts
	$1,385.00 (+ $19.00)

1,300 GM says the two new shifts have secured more than 1,300 jobs for Oshawa, recalling all workers on layoffs plus 300 new ones.

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2300 Yonge Street, Unit S22, concourse level
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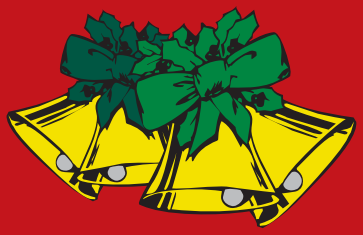

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LEAKS ONLY A LITTLE DRIP OF NEW NEWS

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

Monday was supposed to be a day of earth-shattering revelations after WikiLeaks released 250,000 diplomatic cables, most of them not-so-diplomatic observations of U.S. diplomats around the world.

I'm not sure what I was waiting for, but so far, in the immortal words of Yogi Berra, it's déjà vu all over again.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin is an "alpha dog" and his hand-picked President Dimitri Medvedev "plays Robin to Putin's Batman." As if we didn't know who was really in charge all along, and as if Putin really cares who knows.

There's Robert Mugabe, the nasty old president of Zimbabwe. Turns out he thinks his 18 doctorates give him licence to suspend the laws of economics, in particular supply and demand. We've been watching Zimbabwe unravel for years under Mugabe's diktats. What I really want to know is how many of his doctorates came off the back of a book of matches.

"If you're looking for exciting, you have to go to Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi ..."

Then there's German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is "risk-averse and rarely creative," which is diplomatic language for "boring." Oh, really? Old news.

If you're looking for exciting you have to go to Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, a renowned scalliwag. Diplomats report that he likes to host "bunga bunga" parties, whatever they are. Anything called "bunga bunga" is not boring. But we already know Berlusconi is anything but boring. Corrupt and creepy maybe, but never boring.

Speaking of corrupt and creepy, we have Ahmed Wali Karzai, brother of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, and Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, in that order. Karzai, Afghanistan's foremost fixer, is painted as "widely understood to be corrupt and a narcotics trafficker," but the go-to guy when you want to get something done in Absurdistan. As for Gadhafi, he never goes anywhere without his "voluptuous" Ukrainian nurse. Any of this surprise you yet?

My favourite? French President Nicolas Sarkozy is "an emperor with no clothes." Aren't they all?

In leak after leak, suspicions are confirmed, worst fears realized, faith in human nature disappointed. But what's missing, with one notable exception, is any reason for optimism. That one exception? China has come to realize that its long-term ally, Kim Jong Il of North Korea, acts like a spoiled child. We already knew that anyone who spends more than half a million bucks a year on cognac while the average North Korean makes $1,000 a year is spoiled, to say the least. Now China finally gets it.

Hey, you take what you can get.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Pour your pooch a pint

Worth mentioning

Mmmmm, beer

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

They say dogs are man's best friend, and now that friend can share a cold one with you. At least four companies worldwide sell specially designed non-alcoholic, beef-flavoured and non-carbonated beer for your canine companion.

Kwispelbier is a beer for dogs created by Arjan Berendsen, a pet shop owner in the Dutch town of Zelhem. The company even sells matching beer glasses, allowing dogs to drink their brew in style. The beer is sold in Belgium, Norway, England and Germany.

Down Under, Australian pet boutique Paws Point, even created a cheeky YouTube video advertising its Dog Beer.

"Dogs love human beer but it is really unhealthy for them so after a lot of research we developed (Dog Beer), which is safe for them to drink," it says on its website.

Stateside, Napa Valley-based Dog Star Brewing Company sells Happy Tail Ale brewed in copper kettles and made with malted barley and beef drippings. Its beer is fortified with glucosamine and vitamin E to promote healthy joints and a shiny coat. The company no longer brews the beer, leaving WeFulfillIt.com, an online distribution company, to sell Dog Star's remaining inventory.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What's your favourite Christmas tradition?

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Metro Minute at Voices of Hope

Today is World AIDS Day. It's not a celebration, but rather an awareness of the virus, which for three decades has ripped through millions of lives around the planet. But sometimes even solemn awareness needs a joyous soundtrack. Casey House, a specialty hospital that became the first free-standing HIV/AIDS hospice in Canada, hosts its Voices of Hope concert tonight at Metropolitan United Church.

Performers like The Regent Park School of Music, Amber O'Hara and headliners The Nylons will provide a resounding chorus to help call attention to the ongoing stigma and barriers to care faced by the HIV positive. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. The event is free, but donations are encouraged. JORDANA DIVON

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Legendary a cappella group The Nylons are the headliners at tonight's Voices of Hope concert at Metropolitan United Church (56 Queen St. E).

Now that I have my cochlear implants, I hear SickKids needs donations.

Mia, 9
Diagnosed with complete hearing loss at 6 months old.

When Mia came to SickKids, she couldn't hear.
When she left us, she could.
At only 11 months old, Mia had cochlear implant surgery.
(A cochlear implant is a hearing device that bypasses damaged portions of the ear and directly stimulates the auditory nerve.)
Mia was among the first children in North America to receive this remarkable implant before the age of one.
SickKids researchers are trying to determine the genetic causes of hearing loss and how to prevent it.
We have to find more ways to improve the lives of sick children.
Research is key.

Scientific breakthroughs will lead to better vaccines, drugs and other treatments that will slow disease and save lives.
Discoveries mean kids like Mia will spend less time in the hospital.
Your donations help pay for leading-edge equipment and facilities that help our researchers turn lab findings into improved care for kids.
You fund the training of the next generation of child health experts.
Without you it will be simply impossible to sustain the world-class research that takes place at SickKids.
Help share our vision of "Healthier Children. A Better World."™
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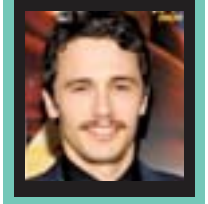
News in brief



James Franco's survival story 127 Hours, Natalie Portman's ballet drama Black Swan and Ben Stiller's dark romance Greenberg are among best-picture nominees for the Spirit Awards honouring independent film. Also competing for the top honour at the Spirit Awards are Annette Bening's lesbian family drama The Kids Are All Right and the rural crime thriller Winter's Bone.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kid Rock bashes ticket brokers who buy low, sell high; says scalpers are driving up prices

The youngest of the Pevensie clan enters her teen years in the third installment in The Chronicles of Narnia franchise ◆ Actress Georgie Henley relished the challenge to show different sides to Lucy, a role the 15-year-old has been playing since she was seven

GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Georgie Henley, left, and Ben Barnes star in The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader.

Growing up in Lewis' Narnia

GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

The third big-screen adaptation of C.S. Lewis' classic The Chronicles of Narnia will hit theatres soon and no one could be more excited than the franchise's star, Georgie Henley.

"I love the Voyage of the Dawn Treader," said the 15-year-old actress (who plays Lucy Pevensie) of her favourite book in the Narnia series. "I love the idea of hopping from one island to another and kind of experiencing new things. I think it's exciting, very dynamic — it makes a really good film."

Lucy Pevensie has come a long way since she discovered the fantastical world of Narnia in 2005's The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Cast at age seven, Henley now plays a more complex teenager that returns to Narnia on a desperate mission aboard King Caspian's regal schooner, the Dawn Treader.

"(Voyage) shows that Lucy is absolutely human, which is probably good," said Henley. "When you become a teenager, people see a different side to your nature and see maybe a slightly darker side to you, a side you don't want people looking at — I think we see that in Lucy slightly. It was my job to make sure plenty of teenaged girls could relate to the issues that she's going through."

Admittedly nervous about returning to the world of Narnia for a third time, Henley was soon relieved and comforted to be around the familiarity of the cast and crew — not to mention the incredibly imaginative creatures that make up C.S. Lewis' masterwork.

"The animation on Reepicheep (a swashbuckling mouse voiced by Simon Pegg) in this film is just terrific," said Henley when asked of her favourite character. "He's so cute and funny but still got that bravery kind of element about him — people have got a lot to look forward to."

Operation Narnia

- **Giving back.** Georgie Henley is spokesperson for Operation Narnia, a joint venture to hand-deliver gifts to over 8 million underprivileged children over the holidays.
- "Everyone should be able to have equal opportunity at Christmas," said Henley. "It's such a great time of year and I hate the idea of some children being disadvantaged and not being able to experience Christmas."
- For information, go to OperationNarnia.com.

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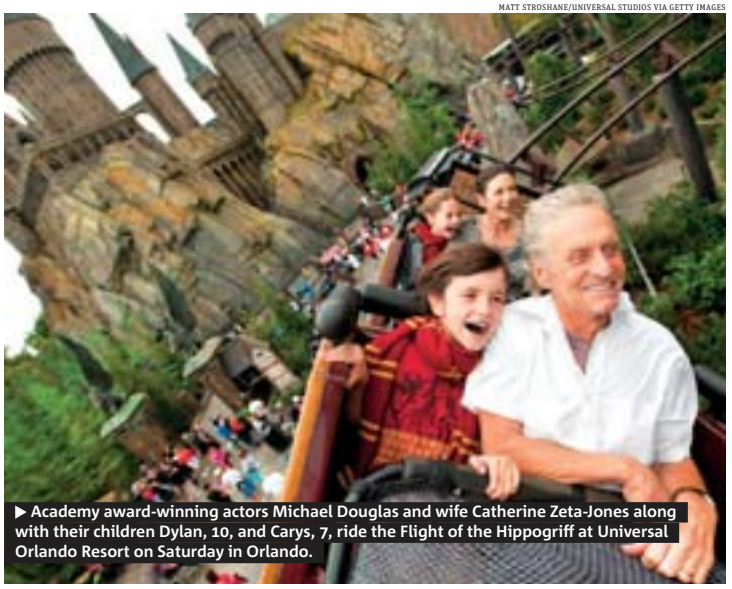

▶ Academy award-winning actors Michael Douglas and wife Catherine Zeta-Jones along with their children Dylan, 10, and Carys, 7, ride the Flight of the Hippogriff at Universal Orlando Resort on Saturday in Orlando.

Douglas eager to get back to work after cancer battle

Actor will find out in January if cancer has been eliminated Set to take on the role of Liberace

Michael Douglas is already looking forward to his next film role.

The 66-year-old actor, who has been battling throat cancer since August, tells the weekly Hollywood Reporter that he'll play the title part in Steven Soderbergh's Liberace, which is set to begin shooting in May or June.

Douglas says he will learn in January if his cancer has been eliminated. Doctors have told him there is an 80 per cent cure rate.

He says his cancer diagnosis has brought him closer to his 93-year-old father, Kirk Douglas. The two had a strained relationship for many years, but "he really made an effort" after the diagnosis, Douglas says. "He was back here almost 10 days. He came over everyday. He was great."

Douglas says that when he was growing up, his father was angry and often absent.

"In those key years, when Kirk was doing five movies a year, if we saw him it was only out of his guilt," Douglas says.

He also acknowledges that he may have repeated that pattern with his own son, Cameron Douglas, 31, who was recently jailed on drug-related charges.

"I'm sure it's not easy, either, being a third generation," Douglas says. "Kirk was all-consumed, was overworked. Probably like myself at a certain time in my life."

Douglas also reflects on his recent difficulties with ex-wife Diandra Douglas, whose bid to claim half of his earnings from Wall Street 2: Money Never Sleeps was dismissed in a New York court earlier this month.

He is optimistic about his recovery, and while the disease "certainly has put a little perspective on mortality," it has also "shown me what family is," Douglas says. "It showed me a love that I never knew really existed."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PIRATES' PORTRAYAL

Disney not a fan of Sparrow

Johnny Depp's flamboyant portrayal of Jack Sparrow in Pirates of the Caribbean was good enough for an Oscar nomination, but the actor says Disney was less than thrilled.

Depp talked about it in an interview with rocker

Patti Smith for the January edition of Vanity Fair magazine. Depp said Disney "couldn't stand" his Sparrow and one person there even asked if Sparrow was gay. Depp told the Disney executive, "all my characters are gay," and he said that "really made her nervous."

Depp's next role is in the movie The Tourist with Angelina Jolie. It opens Dec. 10.

Depp said he felt sorry for the way the paparazzi hunted Jolie, and had to be careful that photographers didn't catch them too close together so rumours wouldn't start.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV picks

Biebs to sing at Grammy nominations

Canadian teen sensation Justin Bieber joins Bruno Mars and Katy Perry on the list of performers slated for The Grammy Nominations Concert Live!: Countdown to Music's Biggest Night. All three pop stars have a good shot at scoring nominations, but who will be the breakout star of the night? LL Cool J hosts. (Global, CBS).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hot rabbi on the loose

Tonight on Children's Hospital, a hip, sexy rabbi (guest star and executive producer David Wain) arrives and seduces Valerie, which angers Glenn. Sy faces a moral dilemma involving a coffee machine, and Lola is confused by a mysterious organ in a cooler. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Law & Order draws on Tiger Woods

The plot on tonight's show includes a philandering golf star and his club-wielding wife. When police arrive, the bleeding athlete says his spouse was merely attempting to rescue him — in this case, from their swimming pool rather than a wrecked car. The franchise is known for its ripped-from-the-headlines approach.

Not the amazing race

Comedy adventure series Next Stop for Charlie attempts to show what travel is like when the visitor immerses in the life of a country: Neil Mandt

MANDT BROS. PRODUCTIONS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Neil Mandt got close to a Thai tiger during the taping of the travel comedy, Next Stop for Charlie.

Filmmaker, TV producer and world traveller Neil Mandt has seen the flip side of U.S. air travel security and safety procedures.

He's been through overseas airports lacking even metal detectors.

He was on a plane bound for Paupua New Guinea that boasted a full-size raft, bolted in place of rows 18 to 26, to be used in case of an emergency landing at sea.

"The plane would have had to break up to get the raft out. That's how big it was," Mandt recalled.

His recent globe-hopping was in service of the Showtime comedy-adventure series Next Stop for Charlie, airing 11 p.m. ET tomorrow and created and produced with Neil's brother, Michael Mandt.

A follow-up of sorts to Last Stop for Paul, the Mandts' well-received independent film, the Showtime series follows Charlie (Neil Mandt) as he searches for his wayward young cousin, college dropout Eric (Erik Adolphson), to haul him back home.

Eric is following his version of an international festival circuit, hopscotching to cities where local celebrations are taking place.

Charlie is in hot pursuit of Eric, and a good time.

With that bare-bones plot in place, each episode includes a real festival as backdrop and is improvised with locals, whether taxi drivers, bystanders or even police.

Mandt, who acts as the star, sometimes crew member and director, had a run-in with Thai authorities as he was filmed inside a tiger cage.

He ended up at the police station but managed to convince officials that his project wouldn't demean the noble animal.

Every adventure, expected or not, is a candidate for the final cut.

Mandt's Charlie, a bathroom supplies salesman, and his lost, found and lost again cousin scramble through 10 countries in the series, including Colombia, Belgium, Thailand, Japan, Philippines, Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco and Turkey.

The on-the-fly production style — and a budget of between US$7,000 to $15,000 per episode — called for scenes to be shot and then restaged and shot again from different points of view with one or two mini HD cameras and wireless mics.

Besides Mandt and co-star Adolphson, there was a crew member on the madcap ride.

At times, a passerby's help was enlisted, Mandt said.

The series, like the movie the Mandt brothers made before it, attempts to show what travel can be like when a visitor is immersed in the life of a country as more than a sightseer, said Neil Mandt, whose credits include Syfy's Destination Truth and ESPN's Jim Rome Is Burning.

"There's nothing I have made that has had a bigger impact on people than my travel projects. Travellers say, 'Yes, that happens.' For people who want to travel, they say, 'I want that to happen,'" Mandt said.

"There's nothing I have made that has had a bigger impact on people than my travel projects. Travellers say, 'Yes, that happens.' For people who want to travel, they say, 'I want that to happen.'"

NEIL MANDT, FILMMAKER, TV PRODUCER AND WORLD TRAVELLER

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SONIA FLEMMING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Craig Ferguson, fourth from right, stands next to Jacques Essebag, the host of Ce Soir Avec Arthur, on the set of the Late Late Show in Los Angeles.

Imitation is the sincerest form of comedic flattery

French TV host copies parts of Craig Ferguson's Late Late Show Ferguson rants but then has him as guest

Craig Ferguson uncorked an on-air rant last week after finding out that portions of his Late Late Show were being copied by a French TV host.

But then on Monday, Ferguson buried the hatchet and introduced America to the boyish cutup known in France simply as Arthur, as he made a surprise guest appearance.

At the top of the CBS show, Arthur was seen solo, wearing a wide grin and greeting the audience.

"What are you doing?" squawked Ferguson, stepping into the picture.

"I'm doing the show," replied Arthur.

"You're doing *my* show," said Ferguson. "You're copying *me*!"

As proof, he presented the title sequence of Tonight With Arthur, which was almost identical in side-by-side comparison to that of The Late Late Show.

"That was not a copy," Arthur argued with his French accent. "It was an homage."

"If you're going to steal from a show," Ferguson appealed to Arthur in his self-mocking monologue that night, "what about a good show like Lost or The Wire? Don't steal from this show! That's like taking pants from a hobo!"

Tonight With Arthur premiered in November on France's Comedy! cable channel, but the host, whose real name is Jacques Essebag, is a 44-year-old veteran of numerous French radio and TV talk shows. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Madonna gets physical with high-class gym

Pop star with legendary workout routine opens fitness centre in Mexico City named after her new album

As the glass doors of Hard Candy Fitness – Madonna's first gym – slid open in Mexico City on Monday, a mural of white, black and violet Warhol-esque images of the Queen of Pop greeted each client.

But it was no disco with exercise machines or Hard Rock Cafe-style temple of Madge memorabilia.

In fact the facilities are not much different from any other high-class gym in Mexico City, and very little screams that this is Madonna's first fitness venture, apart from the name, which she says in fitness parlance is the perfect combination of "hard body" and "eye candy."

"It's a sexy name that gives you the opportunity to have fun and to build strength as far as the imagination will allow," the singer, dancer, actress, children's author and clothing designer said in a Q&A provided by her handlers.

Still, not every gym opens with a Hollywood red carpet appearance by one of the most powerful women in entertainment, who cut the ribbon Monday night, then taught a dance class for 20 hand-picked members with music by Paul Oakenfold, the DJ who opened her last tour.

MIGUEL TOVAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Madonnna

The star says she chose Mexico City because it was a stop on last year's Sticky & Sweet tour, which grossed $408 million, second only to the Rolling Stones' A Bigger Bang Tour. She said she liked the energy of the people.

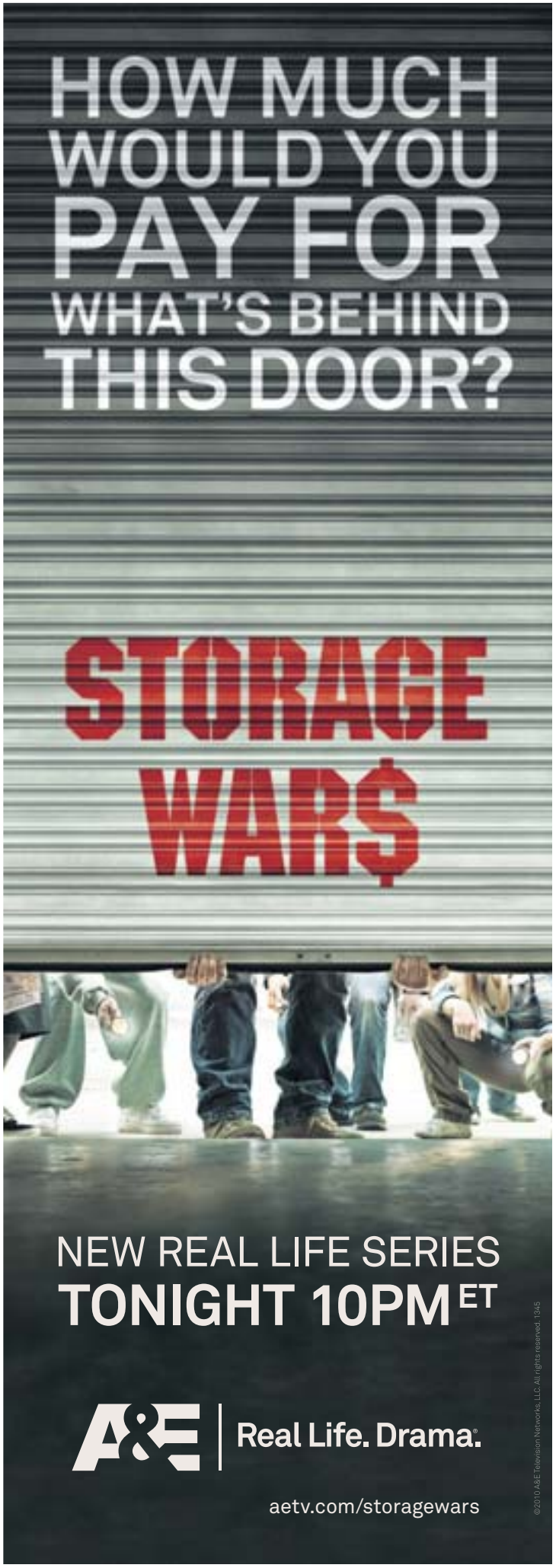
"Our plan is to use Mexico as a place to fine-tune our brand and then expand it to other countries and, in the long term, develop a global brand that includes the United States," she said in a statement last week, noting that Mexico is close enough to home for her to be heavily involved.

Madonna said at the opening Monday night that she also chose the country because she loves its culture, food, art and architecture and that she didn't worry about Mexico's wave of drug-related violence when deciding where to open the gym.

"A lot of places I go are dangerous, like Tel Aviv or Rio (de Janeiro), but that never stops me from going there and putting on a show. I have good security. I don't worry about that," she said surrounded by three burly bodyguards. Dozens of police officers and security guards were outside to keep some 300 screaming fans at bay.

Though Madonna's own hard body may not be plastered everywhere in the gym, the singer of Like a Virgin is omnipresent in the 30,000-square-foot (2,800-square-metre) facility in the city's upscale Bosques de las Lomas neighbourhood, much as she has been in pop culture for nearly three decades.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Canucks in for Grammy glory?

Drake, Arcade Fire, Michael Bublé and Justin Bieber could be in line for Grammy nominations Announcement show airs tonight on CBS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Telegenic rapper-crooner Drake seems a lock to nab more Grammy nominations tonight — and this year, he might even win an award or two.

Grammy Award nominations are set to be announced this evening during a splashy one-hour telecast on CBS, and plenty of Canadian artists could find themselves on the list.

Canadian Press music writer Nick Patch offers his thoughts on which Canucks might be in the running for Grammy glory this year.

Piece of cake for Drake?

Last year, Drake nabbed two Grammy nominations and stormed the stage for a rousing performance of Forever alongside Eminem and Lil Wayne (but not Kanye West, who was still in unofficial exile for his Taylor Swift faux pas). And that was before the Toronto native even issued his debut album, Thank Me Later, which opened at No. 1 in the U.S. and Canada en route to platinum sales in both countries.

INTO THE FIRE

Both of the Arcade Fire's first two LPs were nominated for best alternative music album at the Grammys. No longer the plucky underdog, Arcade Fire still seems a safe bet to land a nomination in the alternative music category. An album of the year nod is more of a long shot, though it's hardly out of the question.

DO YOU BELIEB?

Justin Bieber had an amazing year by any standard, but he might have a trickier task winning over the greying Grammy voters — after all, his teen-pop peers the Jonas Brothers had recorded three studio albums before they received their first Grammy nod. On the other hand, the Grammys have consistently grappled with trying to snare a younger audience, and there's perhaps no more bankable attraction for tweens than the Stratford, Ont., native.

CRAZY LOVE FOR CRAZY LOVE?

Given that Michael Bublé, the 35-year-old Burnaby, B.C., native, has been nominated for five Grammys in the past, it would seem downright crazy to bet against him earning another nomination this time around. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Billy Joe signs on for more Broadway

RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Billy Joe Armstrong

Billie Joe Armstrong apparently liked his Broadway debut in American Idiot — he's signed on to return for 50 performances.

Producers said yesterday the Green Day frontman will reprise the role of St. Jimmy in the punk rock musical that his songs inspired beginning Jan. 1 and ending Feb. 27 at the St. James Theatre.

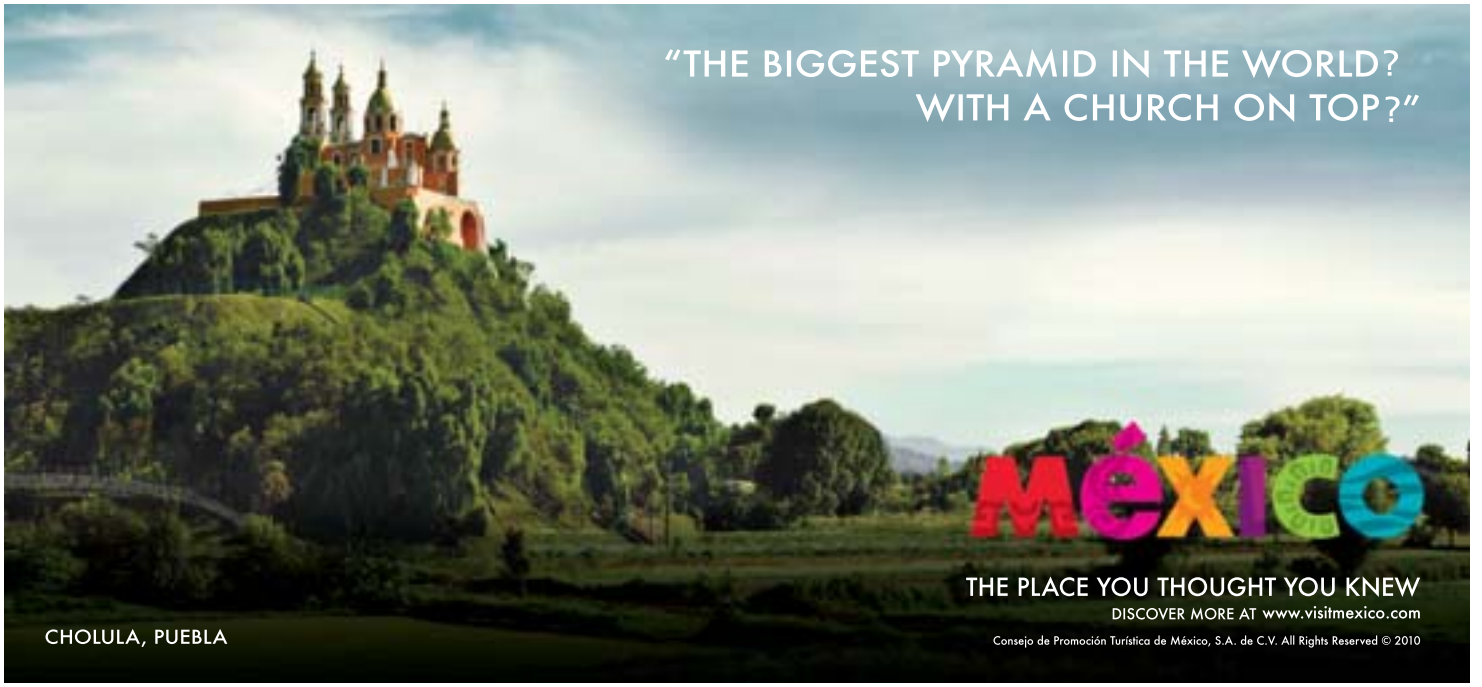
Armstrong will appear in the show in three large chunks — Jan. 1 to 9, Jan. 18 to 30 and Feb. 10 to 27. Original Broadway cast member Tony Vincent will end his run as St. Jimmy on Dec. 30.

Having the musical's composer and co-author aboard has already proved a big draw. When Armstrong made his Broadway debut in September for a week, the box-office take was more than $1 million. Last week, the show grossed $600,000.

The show is based on Green Day's Grammy Award-winning American Idiot concept album. It features every track from the album, plus several tunes from Green Day's CD 21st Century Breakdown.

The musical — directed by Michael Mayer and with Tom Kitt's musical arrangement — was nominated for three Tony Awards, including best musical, and won for best sets and lighting.

The high-octane show follows the story of three working-class characters from the suburbs to the city to the Middle East, as they seek redemption in a world filled with frustration. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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University Health Network

Aguilera spends holiday with Rutler

- **Despite 'not dating,' singer visits with his family over Thanksgiving**
- **Pair met while filming Burlesque and are 'getting to know each other'**

Though Christina Aguilera's people insist she's not with Matt Rutler, the singer did see Rutler's family in Rhode Island over the Thanksgiving holiday, according to People magazine.

"This is the first Thanksgiving she was without Max," a source says of Aguilera's 2-year-old son, who was back in L.A. with her soon-to-be ex-husband, Jordan Bratman. "It was really hard for her and she was feeling sad, so she decided to go to the East Coast with Matt and a group of friends. Since his family lives so close, they decided to drop in for a few hours." METRO

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Christina Aguilera

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Celebrity tweets

Paris Hilton [@Paris Hilton] Went to some magic and practical joke stores today. Bought so many funny pranks. I'm a total kid at heart :)

Kylie Minogue [@kylie minogue] Relax peeps, EVERYONE has to mime at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade!!

John Cho [@John TheCho] Apparently David Sedaris now writes only about animals. What did we do?

Mindy Kaling [@mindy kaling] When celebs get pestered by paparazzi why don't they just start singing "Hey Jude" or some incredibly expensive song to clear?

METRO

Diaz should drop A-Rod, expert says

Actress and Yankees slugger reportedly back together ◐ Athlete's history not a good indicator

While Cameron Diaz and Alex Rodriguez have reportedly rekindled their romance, sources claim the relationship can't last, given the Yankee slugger's history.

"A-Rod is just like Tiger (Woods), Tony Parker and all those athletes who have women in abundance and they can't resist sampling all the goods," relationship expert Cooper Lawrence tells Us Weekly. "When you date A-Rod, you have to know what you are getting into or else you're an idiot. He isn't long-term material, he is arm candy for holiday parties."

Rodriguez was married from 2002 to 2008 but his wife filed for divorce after media reports of his infidelity surfaced.

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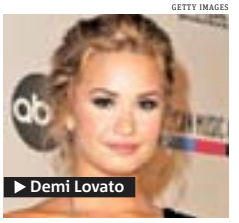
GETTY IMAGES

▶ Cameron Diaz

Lovato speaks to her fans

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Demi Lovato

After almost a month in a treatment facility to deal with unspecified psychological and emotional issues, Disney star Demi Lovato recently broke her silence with a video message to her fans for Thanksgiving.

"Just wanted to say Happy Thanksgiving. I'm very, very thankful for all of you and I appreciate all the support you guys give me," she says in the incredibly brief video, which was likely filmed at the rehab facility where she's currently undergoing treatment. METRO

No single motherhood for Rihanna

Rihanna could never be a single mother because it would be "selfish" the singer says in a chat with Kanye West for Interview magazine. "I definitely think a child deserves both parents," she says. "It would be selfish of me."

METRO

Pink has a name for her boy

Pink has already spilled the beans that she and Carey Hart are expecting a boy, and now she's announced that they're naming the boy Jameson. "My dad's name is James, and my brother's name is Jason," Pink says during a radio interview with Billy Bush. METRO

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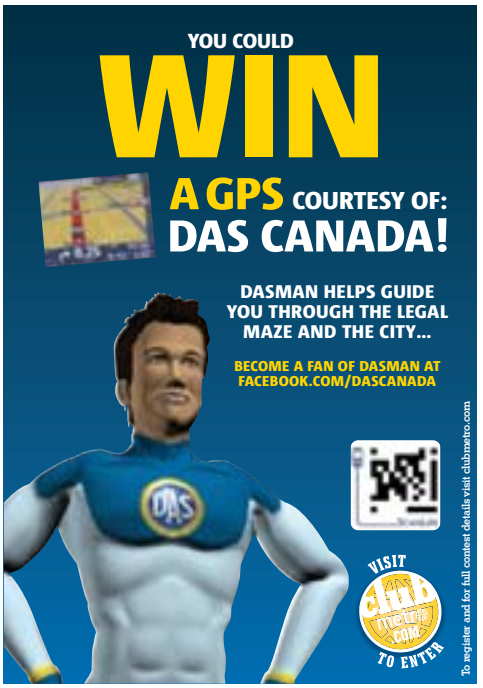
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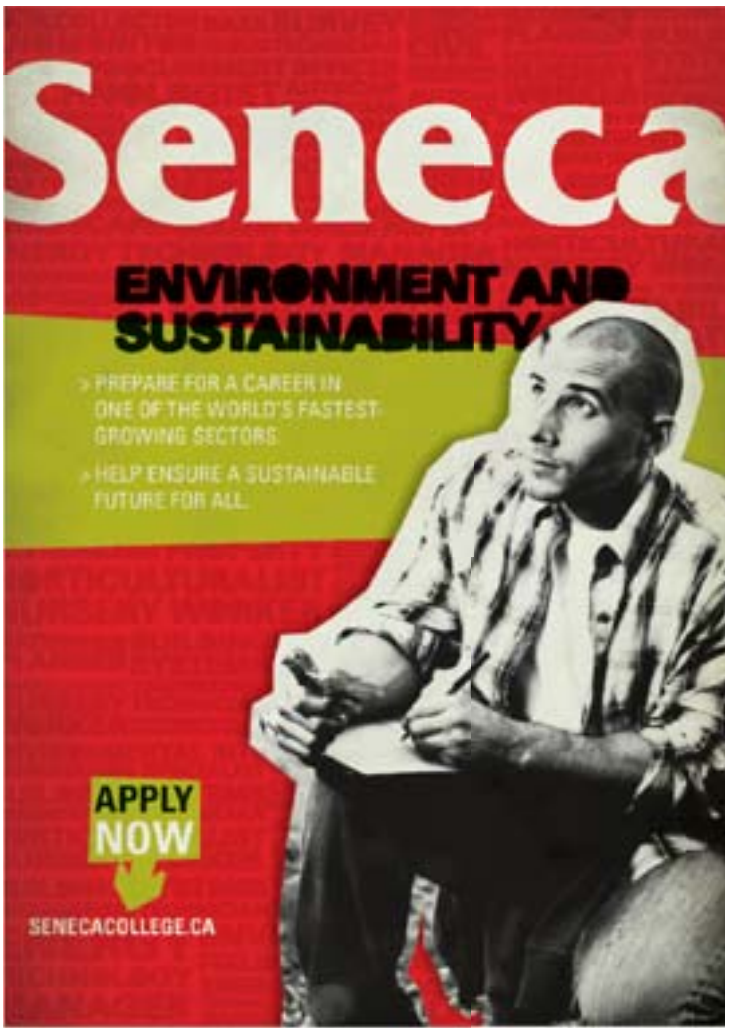
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A bright idea

A Jewish outreach organization is hosting a variety of public menorah lightings for Hanukkah in more than 70 countries around the world, including Canada.

Events, including a balloon-menorah display in Maple, Ont., are being sponsored by the Chabad-Lubavitch organization.

For details on these and other events, visit chabad.org/HanukkahEvents.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giant grouse takes flight at Scottish roundabout as symbol of Perthshire

It won't be cheap to attend the royal wedding — airfares for the period are already rising — but those who plan to go say it will be a once-in-a lifetime event

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ In 1973, Princess Anne married Captain Mark Phillips in Westminster Abbey, where Prince William will marry Kate Middleton next April.

KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Kate Middleton and Prince William

Better make those royal wedding plans soon

Pack the top hat and tails, wedding bells are set to ring next spring for Prince William and Kate Middleton, and monarchists are hoping it won't cost a princely sum to get to the nuptials.

Daniel Whaley with the Monarchist League of Canada says he'd like to be in London for the wedding April 29.

"In '81, it was Charles and Diana and everyone can remember usually where they were when they watched that on TV. You kind of want to be a part of that," Whaley, 19, said in a phone interview from Winnipeg.

"I think it'd be a really special event that I'd probably remember for the rest of my life."

"I want to be there because this is sort of our generation's big royal wedding ... I just think it'd be a really fun time and it would just be a big party."
DANIEL WHALEY, THE MONARCHIST LEAGUE

Now that the date has been set, tour operators are trying to figure out ways to get people like Whaley and other Canadians to jump the pond to London.

Claude-Jean Harel, founder and manager of Great Excursions in Regina, said many Canadians have an affinity for the monarchy and want to celebrate that aspect of history. He's trying to put together a tour package just right for the occasion.

"We're just exploring to see if there's enough interest in people who live here to go to London and try to take part in ... some of the pomp, the ceremony, some of the opportunities and the flavour and the atmosphere that will be around London during that time on April 29," said Harel.

"Royal weddings are a rare occasion. They're something that people pay attention to so there will be an interest."

Access to Westminster Abbey — the wedding venue — will be restricted. But Harel says a tour could include visits to English churches that were "dear to the monarchy."

VisitBritain, the national tourism agency, has also put together a "romance trail" so visitors don't have to wait until April to follow in William and Kate's footsteps. The itinerary suggests visits to Scotland, where William and Kate met while studying at St. Andrews University in Fife, or to Anglesey, North Wales, where the couple will live after the wedding.

Whaley said he knows making the trip could be expensive for many Canadians. Air fares to London in the days leading up to the event have already jumped, he said.

"I'm going to keep my eye on the airfare and if the right price comes up, I more than likely will try to be there."

And if he does go, Whaley knows what he'll pack.

"I'd probably be wearing a Canadian T-shirt to represent Canada."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canada's not-so-well kept secret

St. John's N.L. is drawing record numbers of convention goers and tourists Among the city's highlights are seaside resorts, top-notch restaurants and views that even beat out the beauty of Hawaii

The chance to blend business with a bit of adventure is drawing record numbers of convention goers to St. John's, N.L., where even the most buttoned-down crowd can have some fun.

It doesn't hurt that this colourful seaside city welcomes conference delegates with warmth and cosmopolitan flair.

It boasts an array of top-notch restaurants, a rocking nightlife and has some of the friendliest cabbies on the planet.

So it's perhaps little wonder that the capital of The Rock, population 100,000, is bucking national tourism trends.

Its visitor statistics are on the upswing and the number of corporations choosing to host major gatherings has jumped in the last five years.

The Canadian Bar Association has held its national legal conference in St. John's twice since 1998 and will be back in 2014.

"The most well attended conferences of the CBA in the last 12 years have been in St. John's," said chief executive officer John Hoyles.

"There was just a very special atmosphere ... I guess the one word I would use is warmth."

Hoyles, who has never lived there, said many people long to visit this unique corner of Canada.

"People have always thought they'd love to go to St. John's but they need a reason to go. And having a convention does that."

An Ipsos-Reid survey of association members asked them to rank their top five conference location preferences, he added. St. John's ranked second only to Vancouver. It was followed by Montreal, Halifax and Calgary.

Krista Cameron, director of sales and marketing for Destination St. John's, says St. John's isn't a well-kept secret anymore.

"The demand is higher for sure than ever before. I've been selling in this destination since 2004 and I've seen a great increase in demand."

That's documented by the number of hotel rooms booked per night. That number hit 570,190 for all of 2009 — an increase of just more than two per cent from the year before and up from 504,099 in 2006.

Cameron credits three things: the success of the province's award-winning tourism advertising campaign, a strong presence at travel trade shows and sales visits around the country, plus a meeting in 2005 of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

"There were lots of major associations across the country that did not believe even for a minute that St. John's had the capacity to host 2,400 delegates," she said.

After that, the word was out.

"It just kept spinning. We get record attendance."

And those numbers will likely continue to grow.

National Geographic's most recent Traveler edition just named the Avalon Peninsula — the scenic southeastern portion of Newfoundland s — its top-rated coastal destination.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

If you go

Make sure you check out the following:

- **For more information, including where to stay, visit newfoundlandlabrador.com/Default.aspx**
- **St. John's Convention Centre is an almost 1,500-sq. metre hall. It seats 1,100. It's also linked to Mile One Centre, a 6,000-seat arena. Call 709-758-1111 or visit sjcc.ca**

▶ A view of historic St. John's Harbour from Signal Hill.

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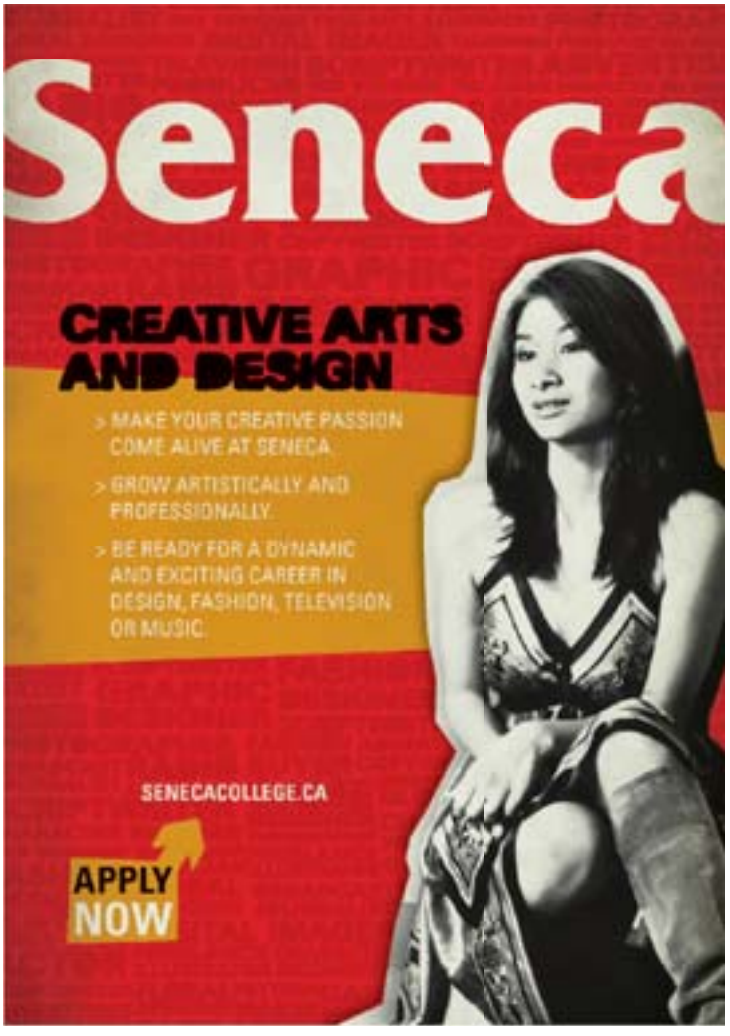
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OMNI MOUNT WASHINGTON RESORT/AP PHOTO

The slopes aren't just for skiing anymore

▶ The Bretton Woods Canopy Tour in Bretton Woods, N.H. The tour runs year-round, with 10 zip lines soaring through the trees and a descent of more than 1,100 feet of elevation.

New England ski resorts are upping the ante by offering more options for fun on the slopes, from zip lines to mountain coasters

Never mind the double black diamond slopes. How about whizzing through the trees on a zip line or careening down the hill on a roller coaster?

Appealing to the adventurous crowd, a number of New England ski resorts have added year-round zip lines and Mountain Coasters.

"It's a matter of being harnessed by one of our guides and letting gravity do the rest," said Sunday River spokeswoman Darcy Morse, of the Newry, Maine-resort's zip line tour, in which users are suspended from a cable on a pulley.

Vermont's Smugglers' Notch is building a "canopy tour" — about 1,220 metres of zip lines where riders will cross sky bridges and rappel from trees — to open by the end of December, with a mini course ready by the end of this month.

New Hampshire's Bretton Woods and Loon Mountain, along with Maine's Sugarloaf, all plan to have their zip lines — popular in the summer — open this winter.

"It's a unique way to experience the White Mountains and seeing it from a different angle, rather than from the skis," said Craig Clemmer, director of sales and marketing for Omni Mount Washington Resort, which includes Bretton Woods.

The zip lines range in length and cost, from around $25 for a short trip at one resort to $110 for a guided tour lasting more than three hours.

If you prefer to be closer to the ground, several resorts are offering another thrilling way down the mountain — on a roller coaster. At Okemo in Ludlow, Vt., riders in sled-like cars carrying two passengers will zip down and around steel tubular rails, controlling their speed.

The "Timber Ripper," which is expected to open in mid-December, first climbs 488 metres and then drops 114 metres on a track with added features like waves, camel backs and banking loops.

Mountain Coaster rides are an option at Cranmore Mountain Resort in North Conway, N.H., and Attitash Ski Resort in Bartlett, N.H., which this year was bought by Missouri-based Peak Resorts. The company will offer season passes and tickets good at both Wildcat Mountain Ski Area and Attitash.

For skiers and riders who like the backcountry experience, Sugarloaf in Carabassett Valley, Maine, is expanding to a neighbouring peak.

This season the resort will open roughly 108 new hectares of gladed terrain and tree skiing that Sugarloaf says will make it the largest New England resort in terms of inbound developed acres. Eventually 262 hectares will be added.

SMUGGLERS' NOTCH RESORT/AP PHOTO

▶ Skiers hit the slopes at the resort in Smugglers' Notch.

Jay Peak Resort in northern Vermont is in the midst of a $140-million development that includes a new indoor ice arena and next year an indoor water park while Vermont's Stowe Mountain Resort is turning to the arts, with a new 420-seat performing arts centre for theatre, music, dance, film and lectures.

So far this year, Vermont resorts are seeing a spike in season pass sales, particularly on early season deals.

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Canada has slopes for all abilities

RYAN BORROFF
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

Now that skiing in Europe is more expensive thanks to the increasing strength of the Euro, Canada is attracting larger numbers of skiers from all over the world, as well as locals.

BEGINNERS

Cypress Mountain and Grouse Mountain are great for beginners. Only 30 minutes' drive from downtown Vancouver you can learn to ski or board in the morning and go sailing in Vancouver Bay in the afternoon. There are relatively few runs but both resorts are set up for schools and beginners.

Lift passes at Grouse Mountain are C$55 for adults and $25 for children.

See and do:

Often rated as offering the best quality of life of any city in the world, Vancouver is your oyster and what a pearl it is with culture, shopping and beautiful parks.

And if you tire of the city, why not head off for the bigger kickers of Whistler. You can mountain bike on the North shore or fish out at Squamish on the way.

EXPERIENCED

Whistler Blackcomb resort is quite possibly the best there is. The natural setting is spectacular and the two mountains are connected by a pedestrian village so moving between the two is easy.

With 8,100 acres of skiing terrain, 12 alpine bowls and more than 200 trails you'll run out of holiday before you run out of runs. Then there are the bars, the nightlife and the food. What's not to like?

A five day pass costs from $336 and $172 for kids.

See and do:

Whistler is really becoming Canada's Aspen, with great alternatives to skiing. Dog sledding, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, snowcat tours, fishing, spa treatments, and great buffalo wings and nachos at Merlins.

HORS-PISTE

You may not have heard of it, but Kicking Horse mountain resort is just three hours from Calgary and has one of the highest vertical ski drops (1,260m) in North America.

Known for its consistent light and dry snow, it is North America's best resort for skiing champagne powder and is a truly great place for back country and heli skiing. Access is exceptional whether by hiking or helicopter and there are 106 ski trails and five lifts.

A full day's pass is $73 and $35 for kids.

See and do:

If you're here and you have the cash then heli-skiing is a must-do. But it's pricey.

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Where to next? Ask the kids

Travel guides for kids — so they can tell their parents where to go

A new series of pocket travel guides from Hong Kong-based Haven Books aims to help kids give their input when parents plan holidays.

The six kidsGo guides, to be launched worldwide next spring for ages seven to 14, will highlight Hong Kong, New York, London, Bali, the Thai island of Phuket and Sydney, Australia.

Also planned is online content including hotel advice and tips for parents, as well as iPhone and iPad apps.

Suggestions in the books have been tested by families, says the publisher.

In London, the tips include getting takeout ice cream in Hyde Park, riding the London Eye ferris wheel (with the helpful warning: "There are no toilets onboard the Eye, so make sure you go before your 'flight!'"), and checking out the toy and gadget stores at Covent Garden, according to an early draft posted online.

In Bali, "must dos" include a water park with slides and pools, and a safari park featuring zebras, hippos and other animals.

But will parents welcome the input? The publicity catchphrase for the series is "Tell your parents where to go!"

Check it out at kidsgotravelguides.com.

JOURNEY WOMAN

EVELYN HANNON
JOURNEYWOMAN.COM

By virtue of (1) the hundreds of hours I've spent browsing in foreign destinations and (2) the three satisfied grandchildren I've shopped for in over 60 countries around the world, here is my advice for finding the best kiddies' gifts.

Before you leave home, trace each child's feet on pieces of paper.

Now you won't have to guess whether those beautiful sandals in Italy or those socks in the markets of Hong Kong will fit.

Be aware of sale times around the world. For example, in Paris there are two sale periods legislated by the government each year: in summer and winter. Each sale runs for about six weeks.

Think seasonal. Remember that the end of season in Australia is the beginning of a different season in North America.

I bought some great Earth Child summer outfits, normally very pricey in Canada, on sale in February in Sydney, Australia.

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Boston St Patrick's Day Air + 3 Nights $499
Boston Westin Waterfront + taxes & fees $104
INCLUDES accom in the heart of downtown Boston. Departs Mar 16/ggv/ac. ADD a 2-day GO Boston Card from $79.

Vacations

Niagara Falls Valentine's Day, 2 Nights $89

Crowne Plaza Niagara Falls taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom in the heart of Niagara Falls. Departs Feb 11/ggv. ADD Light up the Falls dinner package from $55. UPGRADE to the 5-star Pillar & Post in Niagara on the Lake from $119 per person.

Dublin St Patrick's Day Air + 5 Nights $1089
Hilton Dublin Hotel + taxes & fees $402
INCLUDES 4-star accom in Dublin city centre. Departs Mar 15/ggv/kl.

Hong Kong Chinese New Year Air + 5 Nights $1149
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INCLUDES 4-star accom on Hong Kong island. Departs Jan 31/ggv/dl.

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Australia Air + 14 Nights $2029
Palazzo Colonnades (SFP), Metro Hotel on Pitt (SYD) + taxes & fees $458
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gonna get you

SEE
The national sport of Cuba, Baseball.
The packed, hot stadium and impassioned crowds will have you on your feet in seconds. Pick a team and scream and jump with the rest of the fans for 'your boys.'

HEAR
Local musicians in the Trova houses and street parties.
But, be warned, most towns have a museum to the Beatles and Sir Paul McCartney seems to have sat in every bar and restaurant in Cuba

EAT
Christians and moors
That's rice and beans to you and me national staple of the Cuban diet. Spice it up with any of the huge variety of fried bananas perfect for the vegetarian in us all.

DRINK
Mojita
The classic choice with lashings of rum, mint, water and sugar is nothing like its pale European imitations and is served everywhere. For a thirst quenching alternative, try a Buccaneer, the local beer.

▶ Age is no bar to dancing!

WEAR
Go native in spandex shorts, vest and sandals.
For the more delicate complexions a hat or head covering is a must teamed with a local economy-boosting Che T-shirt.

DO
See a water ballet show. Amazingly beautiful men and women dancing pool side and in the water with synchronised swimming. Be warned though, they will try and get you on your feet, though thankfully not in the actual pool.

DON'T
Be fooled by local requests for soap and pens
The people want money and this is a polite way of saying so. If someone pulls at their top, again, it's a request for a couple of dollars not the shirt off your back.

SAY
Just about anything you like.
The super-friendly people of Cuba that you meet in the street will be happy to chat away to you in Spanish. And whether either of you understands a word of what the other is saying is irrelevant — you're just sharing some free time Cuba style. METRO

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8 early days of candle-lighting, prayers and latkes

The Jewish celebration of Hanukkah is earlier than usual and it's throwing some people off

LARRY CROWE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Potato latkes are a staple of Hanukkah cuisine.

Rabbi Mark Sobel, the spiritual leader of a Reform-rooted synagogue in Burbank, Calif., enjoys "winter" carols of Hanukkah and Christmas, but this year is different.

The Jewish faith's eight days of candle-lighting, prayers, latkes and dreidel fun begins today, before carollers get in the swing.

Hanukkah's on the early side along with other major Jewish observances this year. Some Jews are looking forward to a little distance between Hanukkah and the Christmas madness.

It helps, they said, in staving off the perception that the Festival of Lights is a Christmas wannabe.

For Sobel, it won't change the way he celebrates, save a tinge of remorse that non-Jewish neighbours and friends won't be in the holiday spirit.

"The feeling of total holiday season is not there," said Sobel.

Jewish holidays are on different Gregorian dates each year because they're set by a lunar-based Hebrew calendar adjusted to ensure certain ones fall during certain seasons.

Wyckoff, N.J., mom Caryn Kasmanoff notes that Hanukkah is a very minor holiday, religiously speaking, in relation to other biblically mandated observances. It's not as important as Christmas is to Christians, but the comparisons can be harder on Jewish kids when the two holidays stand alone on the calendar.

"As Christmas gets closer and children in school get more excited, their 'party' is over," Kasmanoff said. "So as a parent, it's easier for the religions to share the festive feeling."

That can also be true for interfaith families who will be packing away their menorahs after Hanukkah only to start prepping for Christmas.

"The world doesn't stop for Hanukkah," said Jennifer Prost, who has kids ages 16 and 12 in Montclair, N.J. "When Hanukkah is closer to Christmas, the kids are off from school and work schedules slow."

Meanwhile, for college kids, on-camus Hanukkah means missing mom's potato latkes in favour of an on-campus celebration.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sizzling Hanukkah veggie corn fritters

Preparation:

1. In a 500-ml (2-cup) measuring cup, place zucchini. Break broccoli and cauliflower into tiny florets.
2. Add enough tiny broccoli and cauliflower florets to the zucchini to make 500 ml (2 cups).
3. Transfer to a microwave-safe bowl. Add enough water to cover, then microwave on high until vegetables are soft, about four minutes. Drain and set aside.
4. In a medium bowl, whisk together egg, milk, 15 ml (1 tbsp) canola oil and salt. With a silicone spatula, stir in cornbread mix until a smooth batter forms.
5. Sprinkle flour over drained cooked vegetables. Mix floured vegetables into batter, using spatula to distribute them evenly.
6. In a large skillet over medium, heat 1 cm (1/2 inch) canola oil until a tiny amount of batter dropped into the pan sizzles. If it sizzles too vigorously, reduce heat.
7. Add batter to oil 50 ml (1/4 cup) at a time. Use a metal spatula to gently flatten each fritter. Work in batches of three or four fritters at a time. Do not crowd the pan.
8. Fry, turning once, until golden brown, 2 to 3 minutes per side. When flipping fritters, flip away from your body to prevent splattering yourself with hot oil.
9. Drain on paper towels. Serve with warm marinara sauce. Makes 10 fritters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients:

- 1 small zucchini, with skin, cut into 5-mm (1/4-inch) chunks
- 250 ml (1 cup) broccoli florets
- 250 ml (1 cup) cauliflower florets
- 1 large egg
- 250 ml (1 cup) milk or plain unsweetened soy milk
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) canola oil
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) fine sea salt
- 500 ml (2 cups) dry cornbread mix
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) all-purpose flour
- Canola oil, for frying
- Jarred marinara sauce, warmed, for dipping

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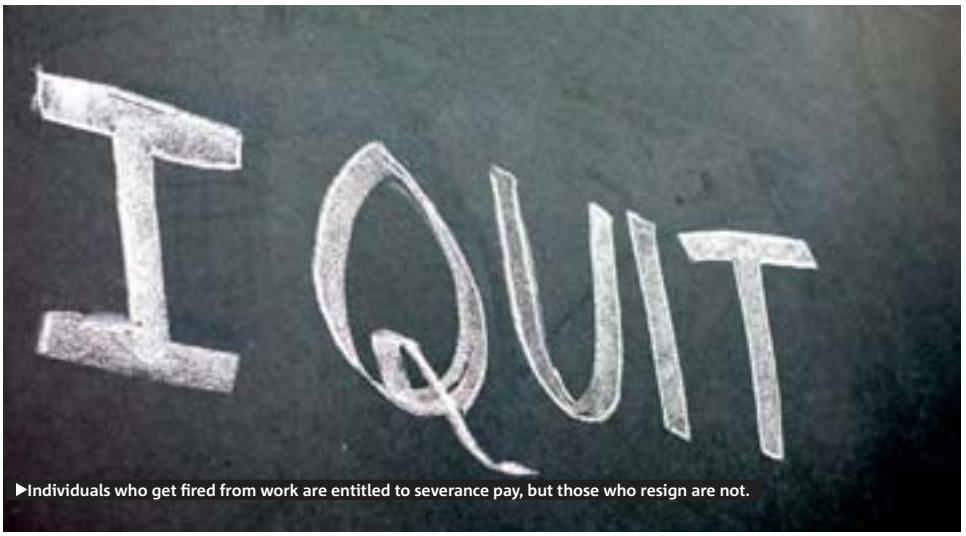

▶Individuals who get fired from work are entitled to severance pay, but those who resign are not.

When Parmjit Gill left the Concord, Ont., offices of A&D Precision Ltd. after a confrontational meeting with his boss, he did not think it was because he had just resigned, but rather, he assumed he had been fired. The court decided otherwise.

Gill often complained about his job as a machinist, disagreeing with criticism about his work and griping about his pay.

Weeks before his departure, Gill even mentioned to a manager that he might not be around much longer, although he was not always taken seriously because of his past complaints. When a problem with Gill's work on a critical project arose, he was quickly confronted by the president, Tony Derbedrosian, and questioned about how he was doing his job. When Gill suggested to Derbedrosian that he did not like his work, the latter responded by stating, "No, I do not like it when there are mistakes."

Believing he had just been fired, Gill left his machine and went home, never to return. At a recent trial, Gill attempted to prove that he had indeed been fired, in which case he would be entitled to severance.

However, in deciding the case in A&D's favour, the judge noted that a supervisor who overheard Gill's confrontation encouraged him to reconsider leaving but Gill refused.

Later, when Gill called the company to arrange to pick up his tools, he did not express any interest in returning to the job because, according to the judge, "he had no interest in returning."

Canadian courts consistently reject assertions that employees have resigned unless it is clear that this was their true intention.

Here, having left the workplace after an argument, Gill had an obligation to return to work or to contact the company to indicate his desire to return.

Otherwise, it was clear he had no intention of returning. To avoid a similar outcome, here are some simple guidelines: Immediately protest a characterization that there has been a resignation, if it wasn't the intended result. If the situation is unclear, request that your options be outlined in writing and seek specialized advice before taking any action.

Resist leaving the workplace, as difficult as that may be, unless there is no other reasonable option.

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Brain drain to bull's-eye

- We have all experienced moments where pitching an idea to a co-worker was like watching balloons pop
- Experts say it's not your proposal, but your method of delivery that will make the difference

ISTOCK

▶ Flicking on the lightbulb means not being rigid on one idea but coming to a brainstorming session with a couple of options.

DREW HINSHAW
WORK@METRONEWS.CA

Pitched poorly, even a bright idea can vanish into dull stares, like light gravitating into a black hole.

If you feel all of your suggestions plummet into silent oblivion like timber crashing in an empty forest, then career counselors recommend you ought to brush up on your storytelling.

Because, they say, the art to hustling a routine recommendation — to make your two cents ring like five — is to pack a plot into your propositions.

"It's like selling detergent," executive coach Jane Cranston says. "Don't tell them, 'oh, this will clean your laundry.'

You tell them it will make their old clothes shine brighter, feel softer, bring the colors out."

Pushing a proposal with the pizzazz of a wandering bard requires a gift of gab you may never learn in an MBA program, she says.

But it's a technique any rube can master.

Start by fathoming what motivates your audience.

Ask yourself, "What's in it for them?" Cranston offers.

"Present your ideas in a way that will either save the company money, make it money, buy it time, save it time, or earn it prestige," she advises.

"If it doesn't do any of those things, they're probably not going to listen."

Don't be shy to spread credit if it boosts your chances, suggests career coach Lynn Berger.

If your company prefers propositions that emanate from more highly-titled or highly-favored pundits than yourself, you can always hitch your idea to the chassis of another's.

"Try piggy-backing on someone else's idea," she says.

"When someone raises a point, say, 'ooh, that's interesting,' and work your idea into theirs."

Failing that, come into the brainstorm session with a bucket of good ideas.

"Rather than being rigid on one idea, bring up a couple of options," Berger recommends. "That way, you're not feeling like you have to have the perfect answer."

However you sell your suggestion, "start with the positive," Cranston stresses.

Qualifiers like "I'm not sure if you're going to like this, but" will never help you, she explains.

Keep Positive.

"The wrong way to present an idea is any form of aggression," Cranston warns.

If all your tips hit a cool reception, you'd best stage an equally cool reaction.

"Occasionally, you have to let it slide," Berger notes. "You can't get worked up every time your ideas aren't heard."

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Job search challenges

Job search stress can challenge even upbeat professionals Here's how to cope

"To have the staying power and resilience you'll need to succeed in your search, you need to maintain your emotional, mental and physical health," explain career consultants Diane Crompton and Ellen Sautter in their new book Find a Job Through Social Networking: Use LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, Blogs and More to Advance Your Career.

Here are a few more of their tips for keeping up your energy during your job search.

1. Take a break from your search periodically to re-energize.

2. Plan some fun events that will make you feel good and build your energy and enthusiasm.

3. Don't replay the negatives.

4. Plan an activity at the end of your day that will serve as an incentive to maintain your focus and productivity.

5. Realize that it's normal to go through a period of mourning for the loss of your job and allow yourself time for this.

To move forward through this process, focus on next steps.

6. Educate and enrich yourself: Read blogs, articles and books.

7. Use your computer to get useful information and to connect with others. But use it wisely. Too much computer time can be counterproductive and isolating.

8. Stay away from or limit your time with negative people.

They can zap your energy and make it harder for you to stay positive. METRO

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▶ Maintaining your cool and staying physically active will help you overcome the challenges of a job search.

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4 sports

Gagne hands Leafs disappointing loss

LIGHTNING	MAPLE LEAFS
4	3

Simon Gagne made an impressive return to the Tampa Bay Lightning's lineup, scoring the winning goal 1:15 into overtime last night in a 4-3 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs.

The winger also provided a screen when Martin St. Louis tied the game with just 8.7 seconds left in regulation.

It was quite a statement for Gagne, who had missed 18 games with a neck injury. The overtime winner came on a 2-on-1 rush with Brett Clark and was his first goal as a member of the Lightning.

St. Louis, with two, and Ryan Malone also scored for the Lightning (14-8-3).

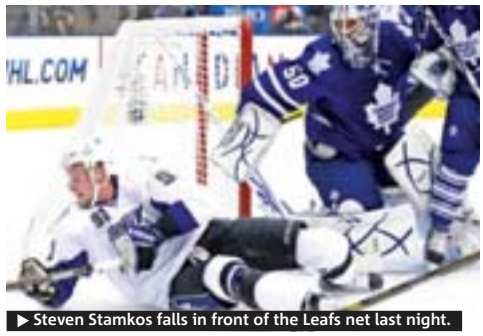
Nikolai Kulemin, with two, and Kris Versteeg replied for Toronto (8-11-4).

It was the beginning of an important three-game homestand for a Leafs team that has dropped eight in a row away from Air Canada Centre.

With the playoffs drifting further from view, this stretch of the schedule seems critical.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Steven Stamkos falls in front of the Leafs net last night.

Men of honour

Sidney Crosby
Maclean's magazine has chosen Sidney Crosby of the NHL's Pittsburgh Penguins as its newsmaker of the year. Maclean's says the 23-year-old Cole Harbour, N.S., native was chosen for his gold medal-winning goal against the U.S. at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympic Games.

Drew Brees
Drew Brees was honoured as Sports Illustrated's sportsman of the year for his championship on the field and his charity off it. Brees became the award's 57th recipient when the magazine made the announcement yesterday on the Today show. The quarterback led the long-suffering New Orleans Saints to their first Super Bowl title in February, lifting the spirits of the hurricane-battered city.

Scan code for sports

Peddie set to leave his post atop MLSE

President/CEO of company says he will retire in December 2011

Richard Peddie says he will retire as president and CEO of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment at the end of next year.

MLSE says an executive search committee has been formed to identify Peddie's successor.

The 63-year-old Peddie has been with MLSE since November 1996, helping oversee a massive amount of growth.

During that time, MLSE acquired the Toronto Raptors, opened the Air Canada Centre, established the Toronto FC MLS team and expanded its business interests with a condo and entertainment development.

MLSE chairman Larry Tanenbaum says, "Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment is what it is today due in large measure to the great team that Richard Peddie has built."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Just can't win

Though the 63-year-old Peddie still has another year to go before walking away, the record on the ice, hardcourt and soccer pitch isn't pretty.

- The Maple Leafs made two trips to the conference finals under Peddie's watch but have missed the playoffs the past five years and are on track to make it six in a row.
- The Raptors have won exactly one playoff series in their first 15 seasons and it looks like Year 16 will mark the 11th time they fail to reach the post-season.
- Toronto FC, meanwhile, has yet to make the playoffs in its four Major League Soccer seasons.
- It's not a pretty list, and Peddie calls "not winning anything yet" his biggest disappointment on the job.

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Richard Peddie, left, is pictured alongside Maple Leafs GM Brian Burke in 2008.

A 'successful' year for Tiger

The goal for Tiger Woods has always been to be better than he was the year before. Despite losing his marriage and every tournament he played, he still gave himself a passing grade.

"As a golfer, I learned so much more this year than any other year — and as a person, infinitely more," Woods said yesterday. "So it's been a very successful year, even though it was a very painful year, as well."

That year comes to a close with the Chevron World Challenge, which starts tomorrow featuring an 18-man field of players inside the top 50 in the world ranking. Woods has won the last two times he played, although he missed the last two years — in 2008 while recovering from knee surgery, and last year because of the Thanksgiving night accident that led to revelations of his infidelity.

It was a year that Woods described as "harder than anyone could have imagined." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Encouragement

- Golfing great Fred Couples expects Tiger Woods to "start playing better" in 2011 and to revive interest in the U.S. PGA Tour.

Sports in brief

Jays set minor league staffs

MLB. Marty Brown is the new manager at triple-A Las Vegas while Sal Fasano is taking over at double-A New Hampshire as the Toronto Blue Jays set their minor-league coaching staffs for 2011 yesterday. Omar Malave, first base coach with the big-league team in 2010, will manage the rookie-ball Gulf Coast Blue Jays while Rick Langford, bullpen coach for the parent club this past season, becomes the pitching rehab co-ordinator.

TFC trades Nane to Rapids

MLS. Toronto FC continued its makeover yesterday, sending midfielder Joseph Nane to the Colorado Rapids for a third-round pick in the 2012 MLS SuperDraft. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Toronto Raptors Andrea Bargnani drives between Atlanta Hawks Marvin Williams, left, and Al Horford Sunday.

In the spotlight

Now in a starring role, Bargnani showing his personality

Andrea Bargnani had just scored a crucial basket at a key point of an important game and was as outwardly emotional as he had ever been.

Eyebrows were raised and comments made as he pumped his fist and let out a bit of a scream, chest-bumping his teammates on his way back to the bench.

It was a moment so out of character for a guy who has been more laconic than celebratory in his NBA career that some of those watching wondered what had become of the real Bargnani. Isn't he a dour-faced automaton, incapable of overt displays of happiness and joy and pure emotion? Isn't that who he really is? Maybe not — and Bargnani's ascension to starring role from supporting player with the Raptors this season is manifesting itself in any number of ways.

"He's not a very loud person anyway but he's feeling more comfortable with his role and where he is."
COACH JAY TRIANO ON BARGNANI

"I am a very emotional person but I don't need to prove it to people," Bargnani said this week. "It's fair that they think that I'm quiet. I've always been a quiet guy but I am emotional. No, there's nothing wrong with that."

Out of the shadow of the departed Chris Bosh, Bargnani, 25, is finally showing publicly some of the personality he's kept hidden for so long.

Teammates talk about how odd — and welcome — it is that he sits among the kids in the back of the bus to and from arenas, giving as good as he gets in the normal byplay among professional basketball teammates.

You see him interact with other players, the coaches and people who spend a lot of time around the team and it's obvious there's something different.

He just seems more engaged, more part of things.

"I think he's probably more familiar with everybody and finding out what's expected of him," said head coach Jay Triano.

"I think he was quiet at the beginning of this year but he's starting to speak a little bit more."

Bargnani is finally where he always wanted to be — at the centre of things. No longer does he have to defer to a more accomplished teammate, no more is he second fiddle. He is "the man."

"That's what I always work to achieve so I like it," he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports in brief

Rockies hand giant deal to Tulowitzki

MLB. Troy Tulowitzki and the Rockies agreed yesterday to a new contract that pays an additional $132 million US over seven seasons through 2020, a deal that means Colorado has guaranteed the all-star shortstop $157.75 million in the next decade.

Tulowitzki already had been guaranteed $25.75 million through 2013 under the $31-million, six-year contract he agreed to in January 2008.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big Ben on the limp

NFL. Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger is wearing a protective boot on his sprained right foot but is expected to play Sunday when Pittsburgh and Baltimore face off for first place in the AFC North.

Roethlisberger re-injured the foot during a 19-16 overtime victory in Buffalo last Sunday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hossa out for 2-3 weeks

NHL. Chicago Blackhawks forward Marian Hossa will likely miss two to three weeks because of a lower-body injury, leaving the defending Stanley Cup champions without one of their top scorers.

Hossa was injured in a collision with teammate Nick Boynton during Monday's practice and had to be helped off the ice.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

POSSIBLE TRADE OPTIONS

Opinion

ADAM PROTEAU
THE HOCKEY NEWS

The Maple Leafs haven't been able to match their impressive efforts from the start of the season and, consequently, team brass has examined and implemented numerous solutions to get the team back on track.

Rookie Nazem Kadri was recalled from Toronto's AHL affiliate weeks ahead of the development schedule on which GM Brian Burke envisioned. Players have been benched for shifts, periods, and games. And coach Ron Wilson has mixed and matched different players on all his forward lines.

Despite those changes, the Leafs can't score enough goals to support their above-average defence. And Burke has precious few internal options to turn to now.

Yes, he could fire Wilson and insert a new coach to guide the Leafs. But asking a coach to make consistent scorers out of Toronto's forwards is like handing a world-renowned chef a hotdog and a crouton and demanding he make caviar out of it.

That leaves trades as Burke's other option. But who can he trade (a) that doesn't have an onerous contract other teams will avoid like the plague (which rules out Mike Komisarek); and (b) who can help a team on the ice?

There aren't many who fit that bill, but here are some Leafs who could be on the trade block:

Francois Beauchemin

The veteran defenceman hasn't blown anyone away with his play since he arrived in Toronto last season. But he would be a solid addition to a bona fide Stanley Cup contender — and he only has one more season (and $3.8 million) left on his contract.

Fredrik Sjostrom

A penalty-killing specialist, Sjostrom is cheap ($750,000) and is in the final year of his deal.

Phil Kessel

Kidding! You should know by now I kid every once in a while.

Mikhail Grabovski

Grabovski has been one of Toronto's better players, but he's still erratic at times. That said, if you want to get, you have to give, and Grabovski does have skill and speed that will be attractive to teams.

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NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Washington	25	17	6	1	1	86	68	36	12-1-0-1	5-5-1-0	6-2-1-1	W3
d-Philadelphia	25	15	6	2	2	87	61	34	9-4-0-1	6-2-2-1	6-2-0-2	L2
d-Montreal	24	15	8	1	0	60	47	31	9-4-1-0	6-4-0-0	7-3-0-0	W1
Pittsburgh	26	16	8	2	0	79	62	34	7-5-1-0	9-3-1-0	9-0-1-0	W7
Tampa Bay	25	14	8	2	1	77	81	31	6-2-1-1	8-6-1-0	6-3-0-1	W1
NY Rangers	26	14	11	1	0	74	69	29	5-7-1-0	9-4-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Atlanta	24	12	9	1	2	80	75	27	8-5-0-1	4-4-1-1	6-4-0-0	W5
Boston	22	12	8	0	2	59	46	26	4-5-0-2	8-3-0-0	4-5-0-1	L2
Carolina	24	10	11	0	3	71	78	23	5-5-0-1	5-6-0-2	3-4-0-3	L2
Ottawa	25	11	13	1	0	58	75	23	7-6-0-0	4-7-1-0	3-7-0-0	L1
Buffalo	25	9	13	3	0	62	73	21	4-8-1-0	5-5-1-0	5-4-1-0	L1
Florida	22	10	12	0	0	57	57	20	5-5-0-0	5-7-0-0	5-5-0-0	W1
Toronto	23	8	11	2	2	51	65	20	6-4-2-1	2-7-0-1	3-6-1-0	L3
New Jersey	24	8	14	1	1	45	69	18	4-5-1-1	4-9-0-0	4-5-0-1	W1
NY Islanders	22	5	12	3	2	49	75	15	3-4-1-1	2-8-2-1	1-7-1-1	W1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	21	15	4	1	1	73	56	32	10-1-1-1	5-3-0-0	7-2-1-0	W2
d-Dallas	23	14	8	0	1	68	62	29	8-3-0-1	6-5-0-0	6-3-0-1	W4
d-Vancouver	22	12	7	1	2	68	59	27	8-2-0-1	4-5-1-1	5-4-1-0	W2
Chicago	27	14	11	1	1	86	79	30	6-7-0-0	8-4-1-1	6-3-0-1	W3
Columbus	22	14	8	0	0	62	53	28	6-6-0-0	8-2-0-0	6-4-0-0	L2
Colorado	23	13	9	1	0	83	71	27	7-4-0-0	5-6-1-0	5-5-0-0	W1
St. Louis	23	12	8	1	2	62	64	27	8-1-0-1	4-7-1-1	3-6-0-1	L3
Phoenix	23	11	7	4	1	66	68	27	5-3-2-1	6-4-2-0	7-2-1-0	L2
Anaheim	26	12	11	2	1	66	77	27	8-4-0-1	4-7-2-0	4-4-2-0	W2
San Jose	22	11	7	4	0	65	63	26	7-3-2-0	4-4-2-0	5-2-3-0	W1
Los Angeles	23	13	10	0	0	63	57	26	8-2-0-0	5-8-0-0	3-7-0-0	L4
Nashville	23	10	8	3	2	54	60	25	4-1-3-2	6-7-0-0	5-3-0-2	W1
Minnesota	23	11	10	0	2	56	65	24	7-5-0-1	4-5-0-1	4-6-0-0	L2
Calgary	24	10	12	1	1	67	69	22	6-5-0-0	4-7-1-1	3-5-1-1	W1
Edmonton	23	7	12	1	3	59	89	18	3-6-0-1	4-6-1-2	3-5-1-1	W1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
Tampa Bay 4 Toronto 3 (OT)
Nashville 3 Phoenix 0
Chicago 7 St. Louis 5
Atlanta at Colorado
Detroit at San Jose
Monday's results
Calgary 3 Minnesota 0
Edmonton 4 Ottawa 1
Anaheim 2 Los Angeles 0
Pittsburgh 3 N.Y. Rangers 1
Dallas 4 Carolina 1
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
Edmonton at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Boston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Washington at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Vancouver at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
Florida at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

LIGHTNING 4, LEAFS 3 (OT)

First Period
1. Toronto, Versteeg 7 (Bozak, Gunnarsson) 1:25
Penalties — Komisarek Tor (tripping) 9:54, Versteeg Tor (tripping) 14:01.
Second Period
2. Tampa Bay, Malone 6 (Gagne) 5:18 (pp)
3. Toronto, Kulemin 8 (Kaberle, Versteeg) 11:51 (pp)
Penalties — Kulemin Tor (hooking) 1:16, Kulemin Tor (boarding) 3:50, Tampa Bay bench (too many men; served by Downie) 7:09, Hedman TB (tripping) 10:36, Jones TB (delay of game) 12:58.
Third Period
4. Toronto, Kulemin 9 (Crabb, Komisarek) 7:23
5. Tampa Bay, St. Louis 9 (Downie) 8:25
6. Tampa Bay, St. Louis 10 (Stamkos, Moore) 19:51
Penalties — Kulemin Tor (hooking) 1:15, Jones TB (holding stick) 11:07.
Overtime
7. Tampa Bay, Gagne 1 (Clark) 1:15
Penalties — None.
Shots

Tampa Bay	17	12	9	1—39
Toronto	7	13	5	0—25

Goal — Tampa Bay: Ellis (W,6-4-3); Toronto: Gustavsson (L,3-6-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Tampa Bay: 1-5; Toronto: 1-4.
Att. — 19,063 (18,819) at Toronto.

LATE MONDAY

FLAMES 3, WILD 0

First Period
No Scoring.
Penalties — Regehr Cal (hooking) 6:31, Clutterbuck Minn (slashing) 18:59.
Second Period
1. Calgary, Bouwmeester 3 (Iginla, Tanguay) 3:08
2. Calgary, Iginla 10 (Tanguay, Giordano) 3:26
Penalty — Stajan Cal (hooking) 13:35.
Third Period
3. Calgary, Hagman 7 (Jokinen, Bourque) 18:31 (pp)
Penalties — Giordano Cal (interference) 7:32, Schultz Minn (hooking) 11:06, Burns Minn (tripping) 17:20.
Shots

Minnesota	12	7	13	32
Calgary	11	10	10	31

Goal — Minnesota: Theodore (L,3-3-0); Calgary: Kiprusoff (W,9-11-1). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Minnesota: 0-3; Calgary: 1-3.
Att. — 19,289 (19,289) at Calgary.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Crosby, Pgh	18	23	41
Stamkos, TB	21	18	39
Ovechkin, Wash	10	22	32
Semin, Wash	18	12	30
St. Louis, TB	8	21	29
E.Staal, Car	12	16	28
B.Richards, Dal	11	17	28
Sharp, Chi	15	12	27
D.Sedin, Vcr	13	14	27
Backstrom, Wash	9	18	27
H.Sedin, Vcr	2	25	27
Perry, Ana	11	15	26
Hejduk, Col	8	18	26
C.Stewart, Col	11	14	25
Eriksson, Dal	10	15	25
Byfuglien, Atl	9	16	25
M.Richards, Pha	9	16	25
Getzlaf, Ana	7	18	25
Heatley, SJ	11	13	24
P.Kane, Chi	9	15	24

Not including last night's games

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE
TEXAS RANGERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Yoshinori Tateyama on a one-year contract.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Named Marty Brown manager of Las Vegas (PCL), Mike Redmond manager of Lansing (MWL), Sal Fasano manager of New Hampshire (EL), Omar Malave manager of the Blue Jays (GCL), John Schneider manager and Jim Czajkowski pitching coach of Vancouver (NWL), Dennis Holmberg manager of Bluefield (Appalachian) and Rick Langford pitching rehab coordinator.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
COLORADO ROCKIES—Agreed to terms with SS Troy Tulowitzki on a 10-year contract.
HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with C Humberto Quintero on a one-year contract.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Agreed to terms with INF Juan Uribe on a three-year contract.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Acquired INF Ryan Theriot from the Los Angeles Dodgers for RHP Blake Hawksworth. Agreed to terms with LHP Brian Tallet on a one-year contract.

BASKETBALL

NBA

LEAGUE OFFICE—Suspended Charlotte G-F Stephen Jackson one game for verbal abuse of a game official and for failing to leave the court in a timely manner following his ejection during Saturday's game at Milwaukee.
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Assigned F Craig Brackins to Springfield (NBADL).

FOOTBALL

NFL

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Waived S Ken Hamlin. Signed FB Jason McKie.
BUFFALO BILLS—Signed G Marc Dile and DB Trae Williams.
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed PK Clint Stitser. Waived PK Aaron Pettrey.

HOCKEY

NHL

ATLANTA THRASHERS—Assigned C Patrice Cormier to Chicago (AHL).
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Recalled F Jeremy Morin from Rockford (AHL).
MINNESOTA WILD—Reassigned F Matt Kassian to Houston (AHL).
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS—Loaned G Michael Leighton to Adirondack (AHL).
WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Traded F Tomas Fleischmann to Colorado for D Scott Hannan.

ECHL

LEAGUE OFFICE—Fined the Las Vegas Wranglers an undisclosed amount for its actions following Saturday's game at Ontario. Suspended Cincinnati D Carl Hudson one game and fined him an undisclosed amount for a major penalty and game misconduct during Sunday's game at Trenton. Suspended Utah F Chris Donovan one game and fined him an undisclosed amount for a match penalty during Sunday's game at Ontario.
ELMIRA JACKALS—Loaned C Brock McBride to Houston (AHL) and D Jody Pederson to Worcester (AHL).

LACROSSE

NLL

MINNESOTA SWARM—Announced the retirement of D Colin Achenbach.

SOCCER

MLS

TORONTO FC—Traded M Joseph Nane to Colorado for a 2012 third-round draft pick.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	13	4	.765	—
New York	10	9	.526	4
Toronto	6	11	.353	7
New Jersey	6	12	.333	7½
Philadelphia	5	13	.278	8½

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	13	4	.765	—
Atlanta	11	7	.611	2½
Miami	10	8	.556	3½
Charlotte	6	11	.353	7
Washington	5	11	.313	7½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	9	6	.600	—
Indiana	8	7	.533	1
Cleveland	7	10	.412	3
Milwaukee	6	11	.353	4
Detroit	6	12	.333	4½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	14	2	.875	—
Dallas	13	4	.765	1½
New Orleans	12	5	.706	2½
Memphis	8	10	.444	7
Houston	5	12	.294	9½

NORTHWEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	14	5	.737	—
Oklahoma City	12	6	.667	1½
Denver	10	6	.625	2½
Portland	8	9	.471	5
Minnesota	4	13	.235	9

PACIFIC DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	13	5	.722	—
Golden State	8	9	.471	4½
Phoenix	8	9	.471	4½
Sacramento	4	11	.267	7½
L.A. Clippers	3	15	.167	10

Last night's results
Boston 106 Cleveland 87
Orlando 90 Detroit 79
Philadelphia 88 Portland 79
New York 111 New Jersey 100
Memphis 98 L.A. Lakers 96
Indiana at Sacramento
San Antonio at Golden State
Monday's results
Miami 105 Washington 94
Oklahoma City 95 New Orleans 89
Dallas 101 Houston 91
Utah 109 Milwaukee 88
Tonight's games
(All times Eastern)
Memphis at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Oklahoma City at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Washington at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Portland at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Denver, 9 p.m.
Indiana at Utah, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

SCORING AVERAGE

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	16	142	130	437	27.3
Rose, CHI	14	144	66	372	26.6
Bryant, LAL	17	152	121	451	26.5
Nowitzki, DAL	17	165	94	437	25.7
Ellis, GOL	17	161	78	424	24.9
Gordon, LAC	16	126	117	388	24.3
Westbrook, OKC	18	138	147	429	23.8
Anthony, DEN	16	135	98	380	23.8
James, MIA	18	137	136	427	23.7
Stoudemire, NYK	18	151	115	422	23.4
Martin, HOU	17	109	129	385	22.6
Howard, ORL	16	125	112	362	22.6
Williams, UTA	19	137	113	417	21.9
Granger, IND	15	115	56	326	21.7
Wade, MIA	17	121	113	367	21.6

Not including last night's games

CURLING

CANADA CUP

At Medicine Hat, Alberta
Round Robin
Today games
(All times Eastern)
Draw 1, 10:30 a.m.
Nedohin vs. Kleibrink
Lawton vs. Nichols
Jones vs. Carey
Bernard vs. Scott
Holland vs. McCarville
Draw 2, 2:30 p.m.
Ferbey vs. Fowler
Martin vs. Reid
McEwen vs. Camm
Howard vs. Stoughton
Koe vs. Bawel
Draw 3, 6:30 p.m.
Lawton vs. Scott
McCarville vs. Bernard
Nedohin vs. Holland
Nichols vs. Jones
Carey vs. Kleibrink
Draw 4, 10:30 p.m.
Stoughton vs. McEwen
Bawel vs. Howard
Fowler vs. Koe
Camm vs. Martin
Reid vs. Ferbey
Tomorrow's games
Draw 5, 11 a.m.
Koe vs. Reid
Ferbey vs. Camm
Carey vs. Nichols
Scott vs. Holland
Jones vs. Lawton
Draw 6, 3:30 p.m.
Nichols vs. Bernard
Stoughton vs. Koe
Kleibrink vs. Lawton
Fowler vs. Bawel
Martin vs. McEwen
Draw 6, 8 p.m.
Jones vs. McCarville
Scott vs. Nedohin
Bawel vs. Stoughton
Reid vs. Camm
Fowler vs. Howard

FOOTBALL

NCAA

AP TOP 25

(All times Eastern)
Friday's gmame
No. 24 Northern Illinois vs. Miami (Ohio) at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Saturday's games
No. 1 Oregon at Oregon State, 3:30 p.m.
No. 2 Auburn vs. **No. 18** South Carolina (at Atlanta), 4 p.m.
No. 9 Boise State vs. Utah State, 3 p.m.
No. 10 Oklahoma vs. **No. 13** Nebraska (at Arlington, Texas), 8 p.m.
No. 12 Virginia Tech vs. **No. 20** Florida State (at Charlotte, N.C.), 7:45 p.m.
No. 14 Nevada at Louisiana Tech, 3 p.m.
No. 23 West Virginia vs. Rutgers, Noon
No. 25 Hawaii vs. Nevada-Las Vegas, 10:30 p.m.

SOCCER

ENGLAND

LEAGUE CUP

Quarter-finals
Yesterday's results
Arsenal 2 Wigan 0
West Ham 4 Manchester United 0

ITALY

ITALIAN CUP

Fourth Round
Yesterday's results
Chievo Verona 3 Novara 0
Fiorentina 3 Reggina 0

FRANCE

LIGUE 1

Yesterday's results
Brest 4 Lens 1

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	2	0	.818	334	266
N.Y. Jets	9	2	0	.818	264	187
Miami	6	5	0	.545	205	225
Buffalo	2	9	0	.182	229	295

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	6	5	0	.545	282	252
Jacksonville	6	5	0	.545	240	294
Houston	5	6	0	.455	264	287
Tennessee	5	6	0	.455	257	218

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	250	188
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	254	181
Cleveland	4	7	0	.364	216	229
Cincinnati	2	9	0	.182	225	288

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	285	231
San Diego	6	5	0	.545	310	225
Oakland	5	6	0	.455	255	256
Denver	3	8	0	.273	250	323

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	4	0	.636	277	240
Philadelphia	7	4	0	.636	310	257
Washington	5	6	0	.455	215	262
Dallas	3	8	0	.273	256	301

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	9	2	0	.818	276	209
New Orleans	8	3	0	.727	265	197
Tampa Bay	7	4	0	.636	219	223
Carolina	1	10	0	.091	140	276

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	8	3	0	.727	222	172
Green Bay	7	4	0	.636	269	166
Minnesota	4	7	0	.364	189	239
Detroit	2	9	0	.182	258	282

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	5	6	0	.455	209	275
St. Louis	5	6	0	.455	213	231
San Francisco	4	7	0	.364	187	225
Arizona	3	8	0	.273	194	319

WEEK 12

Monday's result
San Francisco 27 Arizona 6
Sunday's results
Atlanta 20 Green Bay 17
Baltimore 17 Tampa Bay 10
Chicago 31 Philadelphia 26
Cleveland 24 Carolina 23
Houston 20 Tennessee 0
Kansas City 42 Seattle 24
Miami 33 Oakland 17
Minnesota 17 Washington 13
N.Y. Giants 24 Jacksonville 20
Pittsburgh 19 Buffalo 16 (OT)
St. Louis 36 Denver 33
San Diego 36 Indianapolis 14

WEEK 13

Tomorrow's game
(All times Eastern)
Houston at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
San Francisco at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Denver at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Buffalo at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Miami, 1 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Oakland at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
Carolina at Seattle, 4:15 p.m.
St. Louis at Arizona, 4:15 p.m.
Atlanta at Tampa Bay, 4:15 p.m.
Dallas at Indianapolis, 4:15 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 6
N.Y. Jets at New England, 8:30 p.m.

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2011 Ram 1500 Laramie Crew Cab (with optional equipment) shown.§

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After years of hype the Volt is finally here, but will there be an electrical storm?

▶ The inner workings of the Volt catapult the four-door sedan into another world of engineering. This would be fine for a one-off show car, but the fact the tooling exists to mass-produce this car — to the tune of 45,000 in the first year — is simply mind-boggling.

Chevy leads the electric revolution

MALCOLM GUNN
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An automobile revolution is upon us and the Chevrolet Volt is literally leading the charge.

The Volt is one of the most talked-about and eagerly anticipated automobiles of all time since it will be the first truly practical electrical vehicle available for public consumption.

The production Volt is a far cry from the flashier 2007 concept version that toured the auto-show circuit. What has emerged is a fairly conservative compact-sized four-door with a steeply raked windshield, Malibu-inspired nose and a squared-off rear deck. The designers claim that the car looks the way it does so as to slice the air as cleanly as possible, aided by a set of low-rolling-resistance tires.

The Volt concept is simple. The onboard batteries power the electric motor for about 65 kilometres of combined city/highway driving, after which a 1.4-litre four-cylinder gasoline generator engine kicks in to charge the lithium-ion battery pack.

▶ The Volt's information screen shows a mix of battery life and fuel left in the tank for the generator engine.

Total range is about 480 kilometres before either refueling the generator engine with premium-grade pump gas or recharging the 180-kilogram T-shaped battery pack that extends along the car's spine.

The generator itself is rated at 60 kilowatts, or the equivalent of 80 horsepower, while the electric motor produces 111 kilowatts (150 horsepower) and 273 pound-feet of torque.

Since the Volt is electrically powered, there's no transmission per se, but it uses a single-speed controller to engage the drive wheels. However, the operator can select Normal, Sport or Mountain mode, with the latter providing power on steep grades.

Commuters who want to simply charge up the Volt each night for the next day's drive need no special gear; they can plug right into a standard 120-volt electrical outlet.

But where a typical gas fill-up might take 10 minutes, charging takes 10 hours. That time can be cut to three to four hours when using the optional 240-volt charging station.

Although Volt sales won't likely begin in Canada until sometime in mid-2011, GM is planning to find homes for as many as 45,000 units in North America in the car's first year on the market.

There's also no official word on what the car will sell for in Canada, but since a base price of $41,000 has been announced in the U.S., a best guess would be somewhere in the $48,000 to $50,000 range.

That's pretty pricey for most buyers, but some of that cost will be offset through significant fuel savings, not to mention the value attached to piloting the most electrifying vehicle on the road.

The Volt

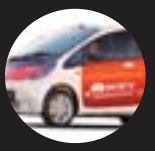
What you should know about the 2011 Volt:

- **Type:** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact hatchback sedan
- **Engines (hp):** 111-kilowatt electric drive (150)
- **Transmissions:** Single-speed controller
- **Market Position:** The Volt is the first electric vehicle to be supported by a range-extending four-cylinder internal-combustion engine; it eliminates most of the negatives associated with electric cars
- **Points:** Compared to a traditional hybrid where the electric motor helps the gas engine, the job of the Volt's gas engine is to charge the batteries when they run low; extreme cold weather adversely affects battery performance; 240-volt charging station not included in price; eight-year/160,000-kilometre battery warranty is comforting
- **Stats:** MPG (city/hwy) 1.0 l/100 km (estimated); Base price (incl. dest.) $49,000 (estimated, excluding government rebates)

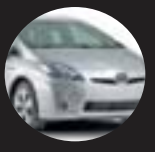
5 drive

By comparison

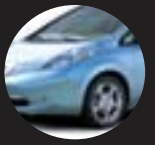
Mitsubishi i-MiEV
Base price: $25,000
Electric sub-compact ideally suited for inner-city use arrives in late 2011.



Toyota Prius
Base price: $23,600
Popular fuel-efficient gas-electric hybrid will offer plug-in version in 2011.



Nissan Leaf
Base price: $32,800
Electric-only model will likely sell in mid-$20,000 range after rebate.



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▶ Natural Resources Canada is taking its Eco-Simulator to car shows across the country to educate drivers about fuel-saving driving behaviour.

Individual driving styles and habits have a huge bearing on fuel consumption.

This is not news, of course, and most drivers know the difference between a "fuel-ish" driving behaviour and a good one.

Most times it just comes down to common sense — like refraining from tire-smoking burnouts after dropping the kids off at nursery school, using highways more often than sidewalks, and taking the dead moose off the car roof after hunting season.

But according to Natural Resources Canada (NRC), drivers don't often put into practice what they know, and are unaware of what can be achieved by even a relatively small change in driving behaviour.

Which is why NRC has embarked on the mission to take its Eco-Simulator to car shows across Canada.

Maybe you've already seen it — it looks like a huge video game, with three large screens and a driver's seat.

"It's a great way of engaging people into this subject," says NCR's Andrew Pape, one of the simulator's handlers. "It's also kind of cool. It attracts lots of attention."

Wherever it goes, there is no shortage of willing participants, says Pape.

I absolutely agree with the premise of the Eco-Simulator: Make the lesson a competition.

Participates get a practice run, then some coaching by NCR on the five time-honoured ways to improve fuel efficiency — accelerate gently, maintain a steady speed, anticipate traffic, coast to decelerate and avoid high speeds.

Pape says when the participants use all five strategies in their second run they usually improve their fuel efficiency score by an average of 25 per cent.

On my one run I achieved a simulated score of 4.41 L/100 km. I didn't do a second because the simulator gave me simulated nausea.

As all participants, I get a printout showing where I deviated from a "best practice" performance. The world record on this device is 3.51 L/100 km, set by auto journalist Russ Bond.

My main problem was going too slow — I often didn't get into the "top gear" which would have given my "vehicle" greater efficiency. Pape says the game's sweet spot for fuel efficiency is 50 to 80 km/hr, exactly where it is in real driving.

Just like real driving, the simulator doesn't take kindly to illegal maneuvers. You get penalized, for example, if you roll through stop signs or go too slowly or too quickly.

And whenever a 17-year-old lad takes a seat and proceeds to Grand Theft Auto his way through the exercise, to show off his disregard for fuel efficiency, Pape and company can do even more than penalize.

"We can turn the road to ice, so he spins off, or we can blow up one of his tires." Nice.

5 strategies

- Accelerate gently
- Maintain a steady speed
- Anticipate traffic
- Coast to decelerate
- Avoid high speeds

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Scion fusion crosses over to Canadian soil

Now selling in Canadian marketplace ◗ Delivers great styling and handling ◗ Impressive used-car potential

▶ The Scion xB drives in the same category as the Honda Element and Nissan Cube.

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
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One of Scion's most interesting models is called the xB, whose first-generation spanned model years 2004 to 2006.

The funky, squared-off five-door crossover wagon initially rode a modified Toyota Yaris platform and boasted big utility, uniqueness and a high degree of customizability.

The xB was restyled and updated for the 2007 model year and remains on sale now.

All first-generation xB models got a 1.5 litre four-cylinder engine with just over 100 horsepower driving the front wheels via a four-speed automatic or five-speed manual.

Power accessories, air conditioning and a long list of options like satellite radio, a subwoofer, alloy wheels and cabin mood lighting could be specified.

Aftermarket support for the xB is also huge — making it a great platform for aspiring or seasoned custom import tuner types.

History/Description

Scion is a youthful and dynamic brand of Toyota that's now selling in the Canadian marketplace via a dealer network set up in selected cities.

Despite its relative newness to the Canadian scene, Scion models were available in the U.S. for a number of years prior to the brand's launch here, and models have popped up in the Canadian used car market, too.

What Owners Like

Passenger room, cargo space, visibility, ride comfort, utility and gas mileage are all rated highly by xB owners. Decent handling and the powerful up-level stereo equipment were also praised.

What Owners Hate

Typical complaints of the xB centre around its meagre power output and limited performance during passing and merging. Engine noise and some "cheap" interior parts were other common gripes from Scion owners.

Common Issues

No serious issues were apparent with major vehicle systems in the xB, though some common sense and a thorough inspection should still be considered mandatory when shopping for a vehicle.

Inspect the vehicle for rust, dents, paint chips or other blemishes that may help you negotiate a lower price. Be sure to have a look beneath the vehicle for signs of excessive rust or leaks, too. Try the rear hatchback release, which numerous owners say is prone to breaking off or failing. On a flat and straight stretch of highway, be sure to "feel" for steering pull to either side of the road, which could indicate an alignment problem or unevenly worn tires. Test the brakes lightly, moderately and aggressively — ensuring the vehicle stops sharply and in a straight line each time. Check the level and condition of all fluids under the hood, and be sure to double-check the condition of the clutch on models equipped with a manual transmission. Any sensation of clutch "slipping" could indicate that the clutch is nearing the end of its useful life.

The Verdict

A well cared-for xB should prove reliable and unique — though some shoppers will prefer the Honda Element or Nissan Cube for something more familiar and proven.

The specs

- **MODEL:** 2004 to 2006 Scion xB
- **VEHICLE TYPE:** Compact crossover
- **APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE:** $10,000 to $13,000

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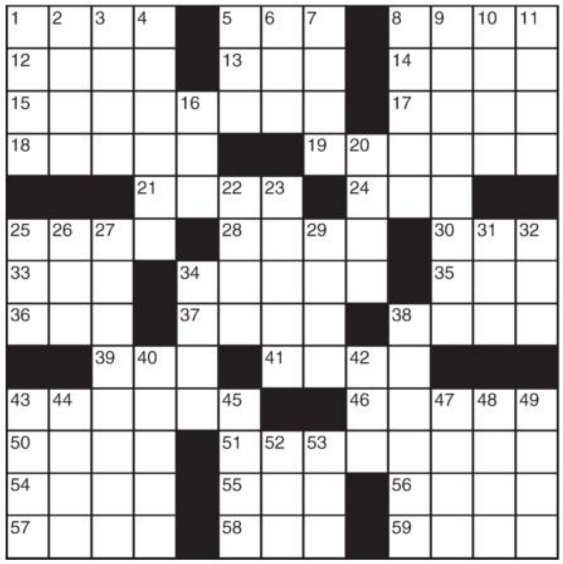

Across

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8 Trudge along
12 Top-notch
13 Square root of XLIX
14 Michigan, e.g.
15 Bartender's announcement
17 Largest of the seven
18 Preamble
19 Young cat
21 Payable
24 Piglet's mama
25 Jack's companion
28 Actress Moore
30 In need of repair
33 Coach Parseghian
34 Shoe fasteners
35 Roulette bet
36 Existed
37 Muscat's country
38 Tosses in
39 Seesaw quorum
41 4-Down, e.g.
43 Storefront feature
46 George Eliot's Mr. Marner
50 Line of fashion?
51 Desperate final effort
54 Office part-timer
55 Type
56 Walk in the woods
57 Praiseful verses
58 Chesapeake, e.g.
59 Folk-music byline abbr.

Down

1 "— Ha'i"
2 Give for a time
3 Research facility (Abbr.)
4 Rolls-Royce requirement
5 Actress — Longoria Parker
6 Wire measure
7 Lustrous fabric
8 Aristotle's teacher
9 Most fashionable example
10 Tom Joad, e.g.
11 Jerry's longtime partner
16 Intimidate
20 Wife of Osiris
22 Cheese choice
23 Starbucks request
25 Mandible
26 George's brother
27 Smith or Jones
29 Carte
31 Started
32 Dentist's deg.
34 Symbol of craziness
38 Dismount
40 Cowardly sorts
42 "Guinness Book" suffix
43 Regarding
44 Garden intruder
45 Smooth-talking
47 Den
48 "— silly question, ..."
49 raced
52 Chicken-king link
53 Firmament

▶ Yesterday's answer

M	E	S	A		D	D	T		I	N	T	O
A	M	O	S		O	O	H		N	E	E	R
P	U	S	H	O	V	E	R		D	R	A	B
			O	N	E		I	D	I	O	M	S
B	L	U	R	T		P	L	U	G			
L	I	R	E		R	O	L	L	O	V	E	R
A	M	A		D	E	W	E	Y		I	V	E
H	O	L	D	O	V	E	R		A	S	E	A
			O	D	O	R		G	N	A	R	L
S	C	H	O	O	L		A	U	G			
H	O	E	D		T	U	R	N	O	V	E	R
A	R	I	A		E	F	T		L	I	L	Y
W	A	R	D		D	O	S		A	I	D	E

Sudoku

		2				1		
		5	3		6	8		
3				4				9
	6	4	2		1	3	5	
	5	1	9		7	4	8	
8				9				2
		9	6		8	7		
		7				6		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

5	4	6	9	2	7	3	8	1
2	8	9	5	3	1	6	4	7
7	1	3	4	6	8	2	9	5
9	7	2	3	4	5	8	1	6
3	5	8	6	1	2	4	7	9
4	6	1	8	7	9	5	3	2
6	9	5	7	8	3	1	2	4
1	3	7	2	5	4	9	6	8
8	2	4	1	9	6	7	5	3

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Hi melly, I just wanted to send you a big kiss and tell you I miss you. But just a little bit. **XOXO YOUR LIL M&M!**

Tom, you are my greatest gift, my love and my life. I am happy because of you. **FOREVER AND COMPLETELY RUTH**

Dear Mike: I know this is a little late, but happy 5 year anniversary! I love you and am so excited to spend the Christmas holiday with you **LOVE NOW, ALWAYS AND FOREVER, ASHLEY**

Calabacito: You know how much I love you hon. And now the world knows it too. I Love You Babe **YOUR COCONUT**

Princess, I never realized what true love felt like till the day I met you. You're my soulmate, best friend, and hopefully one day soon, my life partner. You make my heart race every-time I see you. **BB XOXOX**

Today 3°/-1° Cloudy 40%

Thursday 3°/-2° Partly sunny

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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You may have to do business with someone you don't like today. Be nice because your prosperity depends on how well you can work together. Think of your bank account balance.

♉ Taurus April 21-May Let others know what you think, even if it means provoking a backlash from people who would rather you did not point out their faults. Make it your business to stir things up.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 People are dragging their feet and holding you back. It's about time you did something about it. If they want to take their time, that's fine. But as far as you are concerned, they can do so on their own.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 A partnership issue has come to a head and you must deal with it quickly and cleanly. There is no point ignoring it and hoping that it will go away because it won't. Be decisive.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Don't worry too much if you have fallen behind in your schedule because you will catch up towards the end of the week. For now, take life as it comes and work only when you feel to.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Make a fuss today. Let others know that you will not put up with second rate service. As a Virgo, you always give of your best and you have every right to demand that others do their best when dealing with you.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 There are a lot of bad things going on in the world but it is still a fantastic place. Keep that in mind today. Don't let negative people spoil your mood. The world needs more smiles.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You may not know why a so-called "expert" is lying to you, but your sixth sense tells you he or she is. When was the last time your sixth sense was wrong? Follow your instincts.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You can, at times, be impulsive. It's one of the things you are good at. But if you take an unnecessary risk today, it could end in tears. If an offer sounds too good to be true that means it is.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Today, you will see what has been hidden from view these past few weeks. Don't act on this new information immediately — that's what your rivals will be expecting.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you let your anxieties get out of hand today, it won't do you good. The events of your life are part of a preordained design that unfolds over time, so trust that you'll always be safe.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 A friend needs your advice but you are not sure you want to get involved. Call it as you see it but suggest, gently, that he or she might also want to get some sort of professional help.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

NORBERT MILLAUER/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ DAPD

WIN! **You write it!**

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

DANIEL OCHOA DE OLZA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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EVERYBODY WINS $500 UP TO $10,000^

FINAL MONTH!

0% FINANCING FOR UP TO **84** MOS.**

HUGE CASH SAVINGS*

PAY UNTIL SPRING♦

ALL VEHICLES INCLUDE: BLUETOOTH CONNECTIVITY° MP3/USB INPUT

4 DOOR SEDAN

TOP SAFETY PICK 2010 INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY^

WAS ~~$15,995~~

2011 KIA RIO

Rio EX shown

0% FINANCING APR FOR 84 MONTHS**

WITH PAYMENTS STARTING AS LOW AS **$181**‡ PER MONTH FOR 84 MONTHS

Offer includes: Delivery, destination and fees **$1,489**

+ EVERYBODY WINS $500 UP TO $10,000^ AND DON'T PAY UNTIL SPRING♦

HWY: 5.8L/100KM (40 MPG) CITY: 7.1L/100KM (33 MPG)

60/40 SPLIT REAR FOLDING SEATS

6-WAY DRIVER'S SEAT

2011 KIA SOUL

Soul 4u shown

CASH PURCHASE PRICE FROM **$13,995**

+ Delivery, destination and fees **$1,684**

ALL-IN PRICE **$15,679**‡

NOW GET UP TO **$2,000** IN CASH SAVINGS

+ EVERYBODY WINS $500 UP TO $10,000^

HWY: 6.3L/100KM (45 MPG) CITY: 7.7L/100KM (37 MPG)

HEATED FRONT SEATS

STEERING WHEEL AUDIO CONTROLS

TOP SAFETY PICK 2010 INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY^

auto123 2011 COMPACT UTILITY OF THE YEAR^

TOP SAFETY PICK 2010 INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY^

WAS ~~$23,995~~

ALL-NEW 2011 KIA SPORTAGE

Sportage EX luxury shown

LEASE FROM **$299**‹ PER MONTH FOR 48 MONTHS

Offer includes: Delivery, destination and fees **$1,784**

AT **3.9%** LEASE APR

$2,620 DOWN PAYMENT

+ EVERYBODY WINS $500 UP TO $10,000^

HWY: 6.9L/100KM (41 MPG) CITY: 10.0L/100KM (28 MPG)

HEATED FRONT SEATS

AIR CONDITIONING

ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

ALL-WHEEL DRIVE AVAILABLE

2011 KIA SORENTO

Sorento EX-V6 luxury shown

CASH PURCHASE PRICE FROM **$19,895**

+ Delivery, destination and fees **$1,784**

ALL-IN PRICE **$21,679**‡

NOW GET UP TO **$4,100** IN CASH SAVINGS

AVAILABLE COMPETITIVE BONUS **$1,000**›

+ EVERYBODY WINS $500 UP TO $10,000^

HWY: 7.4L/100KM (38 MPG) CITY: 10.6L/100KM (27 MPG)

HEATED FRONT SEATS

AIR CONDITIONING

ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

ALL-WHEEL DRIVE AVAILABLE

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*5 YEAR/100,000 KM POWERTRAIN WARRANTY
*5-YEAR/100,000 KM EXTRA CARE ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
*NO DEDUCTIBLE CHARGE

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0% purchase financing available on select 2010 and 2011 Kia models for up to 84 months on approved credit (OAC). 0% purchase financing available on all 2010 and 2011 Kia Rios for up to 84 months on approved credit (OAC). Financing example based on Kia Rio (R0743A) with cash purchase price of $18,514. 0% financing for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is $0. Delivery and destination fee ($1,455) and other fees ($100 + $34) included. Admin fee, license, insurance, applicable taxes, PPSA, and registration are extra. Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. *"No Payments Until Spring 2011" (120 day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on all new 2010 and 2011 Kia models on approved credit (OAC). No interest will accrue during the first 90 days of the finance contract. After this period interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay principal and interest monthly over the term of the contract. ^ Win up to $10,000 towards your purchase or lease of any new 2010/2011 Kia model. No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license who have reached the age of majority in their province of residence. Contest closes January 3rd, 2011. Credit awards are tax-inclusive and can only be applied to the purchase or lease of new 2010 and 2011 Kia vehicles delivered out of dealer stock on or before January 3rd, 2011. All participants will receive an award consisting of a credit award in an amount varying from $500 to $10,000. Not all awards have the same odds of winning. Potential award recipients must correctly answer a skill-testing question. Other restrictions may apply, please see your Kia dealer for full contest rules. ‡Cash purchase price for 2011 Sorento (SR540B)/2011 Soul (SO550B) is $21,679/$15,679 and includes a cash credit of $4,100/$2,000 and delivery and destination fees ($1,650/$1,650). OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and Air Tax (where applicable), based on the Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price of $23,995/$15,995. ‹ Cash savings vary by model and trim. ♦Monthly lease payment for 2011 Sportage (SP551B) is $299 for 48 months at 3.9% lease APR with a $2,620 down payment. Total lease obligation is $16,994 with the option to purchase at end of term for $9,146. Lease has 20,000 km/year allowance (other packages available) and $0.10/km for excess. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650, OMVIC fee, environmental fee and Air Tax (where applicable) included. › Monthly payment for 2011 Rio (R0542B) starts at $181 for 84 months at 0% finance APR based on the Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price of $13,695. Delivery and Destination fees ($1,455), OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and Air Tax (where applicable) included. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, PPSA, applicable taxes and variable dealer administration fees (up to $699). Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades. ^$1,000 competitive bonus available to current select competitive SUV owners. Please see dealer for eligibility and full details. °Highway/city fuel consumption for 2011 Sorento 2.4L MT (SR540B) is 7.4 L (38 MPG)/10.6 L (27 MPG); 2011 Rio (R0542B) is 5.8 L (40 MPG)/7.1 L (33 MPG); 2011 Soul (SO550B) is 6.3L (45 MPG)/7.7L (37 MPG)/ 2011 Sportage (SP752B) is 6.9 L (41 MPG)/10.0 L (28 MPG). The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. ^2011 Kia Sorento/2011 Kia Soul/2011 Kia Sportage awarded the Top Safety Pick by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The award is applicable on all 2011 Sorento/2011 Sportage models manufactured after March 2010. Visit www.iihs.org for full details. ^ 2011 Kia Sportage voted best compact SUV of the year by auto123.com. ®The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. Some vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. Some conditions apply to the $500 / $750, Grad Rebate Program / Kia Mobility Program. See dealer for details. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Offers end January 3rd, 2011. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.